

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

**MINUTES**

**April 15, 2025**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE:** 10:07 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (In 10:24 a.m.)  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member (In 10:14 a.m.)  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (In 11:22 a.m./Out 3:40 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney  
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director  
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
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, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office  
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office  
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office  
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

**ADMIN.:** Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor  
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Shayne Agawa, Director, Department of Environmental Management  
Eric Nakagawa, Wastewater Reclamation Division Chief, Department of Environmental Management  
Troy Kahalekai, Solid Waste Operations Program Superintendent, Solid Waste Division, Department of Environmental Management

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Tess Herman, Recycling Specialist IV, Solid Waste Division, Department of Environmental Management  
Cecile Powell, Recycling Specialist IV, Solid Waste Division, Department of Environmental Management  
Mia Charleston, Recycling Specialist II, Solid Waste Division, Department of Environmental Management  
Sage Kiyonaga, Civil Engineer VI, Solid Waste Division, Department of Environmental Management

**OTHERS:** Vincent Mina  
Deidre Tegarden, Executive Director, Nisei Veterans Memorial Center  
JD Pells  
Kevin Collins  
Katherine Trotsuk  
Dean Trotsuk  
Charlotte O'Brien, Foodservice Hawai'i  
Teri Ramelb  
David Whitney  
Tapani Vuori  
Jimmy Kincaid  
Nicole Huguenin, Circular Hawai'i Holding Collective  
James Langford  
Carrie Demott  
Kai Nishiki  
Tom Croly  
Cheryl King, Hawai'i Association for Marine Education and Resource  
Jasee Law  
Gretchen Losano  
Valerie Cox  
Others (11)

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good morning. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is...it is on...oh, it's tax day, April 15th, and it's 10:07 a.m. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of this Committee, and I'd like to welcome everybody. It's nice to see people in the Chambers ready to testify, I suppose. This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law, and as a reminder, Members, if your name is called and if you're not in the Chambers, please identify if anyone is with you in your workspace, and minors do not need to be identified. So, Member Kama will be joining us shortly, and good morning, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. And Member Johnson...is he online? I don't see him yet. Okay, he was there yesterday, so he should be popping up soon. Chair Lee, nice to see you. Hope you're feeling better.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, good morning. Good morning. I'm home alone in my workspace, and if you're traveling to Montana, you might run into a Blackfoot Native American, and he would say, or she would say, oki, hello.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oki. Oki to you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka. I'll unmute my camera when it's enabled, and oki kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. You are here in physical presence. Can somebody help her with that, please, Staff? Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Oki means cut...to cut out in...in...in Hawaiian, in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, so I won't be saying that greeting. And there are currently no testifiers at the Moloka'i District Office. And mahalo to Member Cook and his wife for the hospitality and his amazing staff. And then Chair, Chair Lee, I asked Staff to mute you, that's why you were muted, because I...I didn't think that you would want everyone hearing you coughing. That's all.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Let's see, who else do we have...Member U'u-Hodgins is going to join us shortly, and we also have Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and oki.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oki. So, from the Office of the Mayor...I'm sorry, my...this is being transcribed on my phone. From the Office of the Mayor, we have Budget Director Lesley Milner; Department of Environmental Management, Shayne Agawa; as well...as well as Deputy Director Robert Schmidt is here? I don't see him. Yeah, that's what I thought. Okay, invisible. Do you have a replacement? Okay. Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo; Deputy Corp. Counsel Kristie Wigglesworth. Committee Staff: Pauline Martin *[sic]*; Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; as well as James Krueger; Jarret Pascual; Clarissa MacDonald; and the Legislative Attorney, we have Peter Hanano; Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director of Council Services; Lei Dinneen, Council of...Council Services Assistant Clerk. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending. We had a kind of late night last night. We...a very full night. So, I'm going to ask

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Member Cook to give us a summary of last night, and then we'll go into the departments.  
Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair, and good morning, all. Last night, we had a very good community budget hearing in Kihei at the Community Center. There was probably about 70 people there, there were 51 individuals who provided oral testimony, and we also received written testimony from several individuals. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. and adjourned at 9:31 p.m. In summary, the oral testimony received was generally in support of or advocating for affordable workforce housing and affordable housing initiatives; improving the funding for the North-South Collector Road, as well as Kihei Mauka Road; enhanced at...alternate and emergency evacuation routes, including better lighting and traffic safety measures; upgrading sidewalks and crosswalks, especially along South Kihei Road and Ohukai Road, and speed bumps along Kea...Keaniloli Road (*phonetic*); continued support for Maui AIDS Foundation and public health initiatives was by several people; increasing funding for STEM programs and local schools via MEDB and the STEMworks Hawai'i was also well represented; support for budget line-item funding for Grow Some Good, which is from the school cafeteria programs, was interesting and well-represented; also funding for Ka'ahumanu Church res...renovation; services to support pre-wildfire homeless and provide mental health services; Maui Nui Resource...Resource Council and Hui O Kai Wai Olu [*sic*]; funding for Parks and Recreation, including facility upgrades and facilitating park permits. All of this was passionately and well-presented, and it was definitely a full night. I'm grateful to all eight Councilmembers who could attend. We missed Chair Lee, and that's my report. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Yeah, it was an awesome night. Thank you very much, and...and thank you also for the wonderful meal before we started at 6:00. I also heard a comment from one of your constituents that they appreciate the budget deliberation...I mean the budget meeting coming to your community, and this person said that they had not experienced it in whatever community he came from, so good. I'm glad that your, yeah, constituents were appreciative.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, today, we'll continue with our deliberations on Fiscal Year '26 Budget. Before us today is the Department of Environmental Management. And as--after we conclude our deliberations, DEM can revisit...or we--done with DEM, we can revisit our procedures this afternoon...so we can discuss it, but we'll get through the Department first. I'm going to start with asking Director Agawa for opening remarks, and then take public testimony. I'm planning to adjourn this meeting by 4:00 because we have the Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia residency area meeting tonight at 6:00 at the Pā'ia Community Center, and we need...all need to travel to make it there. So, at this time, I just want to say, Director Agawa, if you could do your opening comments, please do also introduce your team members. I also want to just reiterate that this is different. This year, we're not doing PowerPoint presentations, and we're asking Members--I mean, the

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departments to explain to us what your budget priorities are, what the changes are, increases...increases and decreases, and your important programs. We appreciate your department a lot because you cover a lot of what we are all about. So, at this time, Director, take it away.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Chair Sugimura and Members. I'd like to start off by saying thank you for giving the Department an opportunity to discuss our Fiscal Year '26 proposed budget. So, our yearly budgets mainly supports our mission, which is to protect the public's health, safety, environment. We do this by developing and operating the County's infrastructure. We also do this by continuing to maintain, upgrade, and expand our wastewater infrastructure. We continue to provide refuse collection services, along with the final disposal and containment of waste generated Countywide. We also do this by moving forward with waste diversion and separation efforts, which allow us to continue efforts toward a waste-to-resource type of operation. We also continue to create, administer, and manage environmental programs and grants to ensure the protection of our fragile and unique ecosystem. So, now I'm just going to give you a brief overview of changes in our upcoming budget. The main change in our operational budget, we are increasing to 129.9 million as compared to last year's 115.6 million. Our CIP budget...total budget this year is requesting 110.6 million. Last year, it was 46.9 million. That's a substantial increase. CIP, our Wastewater Division has 30 projects this year, proposed 89.9 million for Wastewater; Solid Waste has six projects proposed this year, for a total of 4.2 million; and EP&S are proposing two CIP projects this year, for a total of \$924,000. Major changes in Fiscal Year '26. In our EP&S Recycling Section, we are asking for 200,000 for a Bandit grinder, and also 150,000 for a mini excavator. This is for the Hāna Landfill to assist with producing...processing green waste, sorry. We also are requesting 649,000 for the FOG recycling and composting, that's one of the CIP projects; and the other CIP project, we're requesting 275,000. EP&S abandoned vehicles, we are requesting 300,000 for--from the Disposal of Vehicles Revolving Fund, and this is to create a pilot project for stray-tires recycling. This will help support community members who have stray tires to help with the disposal fee, and to have them recycle those. In Solid Waste, we are requesting 1.4 million for a landfill compactor, requesting 450,000...an additional 450,000. This was an increase to landfill cover at our Central Maui Landfill. We are also asking for an additional 345,000 related to rentals. This is mainly to re...relocate our refuse collection operations out of the Wailuku Baseyard. Space has been an issue there. It is...has affected safety with the amount of trucks crammed in there, and personnel working around to clean the trucks. For Wastewater major changes, we are requesting an additional \$319,984, that's related to premium pay increase, and another--a little over 500,000 to account for increase in salaries. There's an additional 3.3 million requested to help with debt service, and another large item is 851,000 and change relating to OPEB, which are our benefits. We also are requesting 370,000 to replace an emergency ten-inch bypass pump. And major changes to CIP, these are just the larger CIP items, like I mentioned, we have 30 of them. I won't go over all of them, but these are the larger ones. 9.4 million for Kihei Wastewater Pump Station 7 relocation; 10.5 million for the Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation facility design, that's the new one in Waikapu; and 15.6 million for West Maui R-1 system expansion. We do have four expansion positions we are asking for this year. The first one is a departmental

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personnel clerk. Our department has gotten to a size where we needed additional assistance on our personnel side. I won't go into details, I can ask--answer any questions specifically on these positions. The second position is a Recycling Specialist III. This is associated mainly with the...the CARP management and development. It's a specialized position that we require to help to administer the CARP program. The third position is Landfill Equipment Operator II, this is at our Central Maui Landfill. We need additional supervisory coverage. We have a six-day work week, and we're having issues with supervisory coverage there. And the fourth position, expansion position, is a landfill attendant at Lānaʻi. Currently, we need another position there similar to our other landfills. We are using a lot of overtime for our personnel to fill the requirements of this position. One of the main duties there is to get landfill cover, and they have to do that outside of working hours, and travel a long distance to do so. Fourth, I'd like to discuss rates and fees. So, for this Fiscal Year '26, our Solid Waste Division are proposing increases in rates. I'll go over them one by one. There's five increases. So, general land tip fee, we're asking for an increase from \$106 per ton to \$110 per ton. Landfill self-hauler fee, this is what they pay for residents to drop off their own truckload at Central Maui, from \$4 to \$5 a truckload. We're also requesting an increase in refuse collection fee from \$34 a month to \$36 a month. That's where Maui Coun...Maui Island. Refuse collection fee for Lānaʻi, an increase from \$17 to \$18 a month, and refuse collection service fee from \$30 to \$50. And this is a service fee when people have their account discontinued, and then we need to recontinue it. So, we remove the cart, and then we replace the cart. That's part of the duties that's paid for by the refuse collection service fee. Solid Waste Division estimates a generation of 1.25 million from these rate increases for '26, and is compared to the total operational budget, which is \$4 million higher this year from last year. So, increase of 1.25 from the rate increases and \$4 million higher budget. In Wastewater, we're request...we're proposing an overall rate increase of 9 percent. We anticipate gaining revenue of 5.7 million. How this affects single-family residents in general; it will increase their wastewater fees by approximately \$10 a month, and same with multifamily residents. And the rest of the breakdown are in the rates and fees. I'll go to grants. So, we have DEM-funded grants. We have a total of 55 grants that we manage and administer, for a total of a little over \$7 million in grant funding for grantees. Our Recycling Section manages 14 grants; Abandoned Vehicles and Metal Section manages five grants; and our engineering program section manages 36 grants. Grants received in our department. Our Recycling Section receives a grant from the State Department of Ag--this is to help with the coconut rhinoceros beetle mitigation--and we also have pass-through funds from the State Department of Health for glass recovery program. Our abandoned vehicle section has--receives a grant from the State Hawaiʻi Electronic Device Recycling fund. They also applied for 1.2 million in EPA Brownfield coalition grant for next fiscal year, and they applied for another grant, which is an EPA SWIFR grant. This is for Honokōwai to Honokōhau bulky item collection station, and that is approximately 3.6 million. Environmental Program Section receives a special management area Revolving Fund grant for Mālama Kakanilua, and that is for 150,000. And for Wastewater, we were awarded a WaterSMART Congressionally-authorized Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects funding grant in the amount of 15.6 million, and this occurred in Fiscal Year '25, this current fiscal year, and this is to help to support our R-1 expansion efforts in West Maui. Revolving Funds. Wastewater has two Revolving Funds, one is the NASKA

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sewage pump station fund. This is a State facility that services the Kahului Airport. They have asked the County to maintain and operate that pump station, so they pay into this fund to offset costs for us to maintain and operate that. And there's also a Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. I believe this is for expansion or repairs of infrastructure, and also to help with debt service. In our EP&S Abandoned Vehicles and Metals, there's a Highway Beautification, Abandoned Vehicle, and Tourism-Related Traffic Congestion Revolving Fund. The balance, I believe, in that fund is 600...650,000, and there's also a Disposal of Vehicles Revolving Fund, which balances 15.5 million. That concludes our opening statements, and I thank you for your time. And our team is here to answer any questions, I'll introduce them at this time. So, from my left...going to my far left is Eric Nakagawa for our Wastewater Reclamation Division; Cecile Powell from our EP&S Recycling Section; Troy Kahalekai, who's standing in for our Division Chief Mike Kehano, who's attending a funeral off-island, he's from our Solid Waste Division. We have Tess Herman, who's from EP&S Abandoned Vehicles; and Mia Charleston, who's part of our EP&S Environmental Program Section. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much for bring...bringing the team. Appreciate that. All right, Members. So, at this time, do we have public...we do have public testimony? Okay, it looks like it, from the Chambers. So, at this time then, I'm going to open discussion up for--to receive testimony. Any testifier wanting to provide...provide testimony should sign up with Staff, join the online meeting via Teams dot...Teams link, or call in to the phone numbers noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the departments scheduled today, so you can speak on anything that's in BFED agenda...on the agenda. Written testimony is encouraged, and can be submitted via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas) as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will...will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone; star-5 to raise your hand and lower your hand, and star-6 to...to mute and unmute. Staff will add your name to...name to the testifiers list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the names you're logged in under the last four digits of your phone number when it's your time to testify. At this time...at that time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to, or as "Anonymous" if you wish to identify yourself anonymously. If you're in person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony, and if you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, state your name...state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I'll kindly ask you to complete your testimony and have another 30 seconds. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not want to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). We will do our best to keep...keep each person...and call up in an orderly fashion. Staff, please call up our first testifier, and Clarissa MacDonald --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- will be calling up testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes? Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Myself and Councilmember Kama --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- have joined the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. Welcome, Member Johnson and Vice-Chair Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And oki means gap--big in Japanese as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, a big good morning and big hello to everybody. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, very good. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair. Pardon me for being tardy. I'm going to blame Lena on this one.

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . But nice to be here. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great. Thank you, both of you, for being here. Okay, first testifier, please.

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The first testifier is Vincent Mina, to be followed by Deidre Tegarden. Apologies if I mispronounce your name.

MR. MINA: Aloha kākou. Aloha, everybody. For those of you who don't know, my name's Vincent Mina. I've been a...my wife and I have been farming on Maui now for 31 years.



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I sat on the State Board of Agriculture for eight years, instigated and was President of the Hawai'i Farmers Union for 12 years, and now I should be retiring, but I think I've come to the point to where when I die, I'll retire.

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

MR. MINA: I met Cecile Powell, who is an astute visionary, and assertive visionary at that, who really liked an idea I had to bring forward to what I call is upcycling materials, waste materials. And what I brought today was a sample of this waste material, as we know as cardboard, to be used as a weed mat. And it's been really a beautiful thing to see, folks taking this and...and not using black plastic and/or fabric because basically, it wasn't doing anything other than you have to rip it up at some point with all the weeds that are growing through it. And what I've offered people to do, in consulting with them, is be able to use this to rebuild their soils. And the way to do that is to...this allows moisture and micro...beneficial microorganisms to grow to help remediate the soil, and then you just continue to layer cake, and I...I offer amendments through a grant that we got through the County this past year. We made amendments. My partner Ricky Apana and I, AKA the Shred Brothers, we took 1,200 pounds of fish and...mixed with sugar and biochar, and put them in 12 trash cans underneath--in my greenhouse. Now, my wife was not too happy about that, being from a fishing family of Moloka'i, and--but then she realized there's no smell and no flies. And so, when that's done in six months of fermenting, one capful of that per five gallons of water will water your plants. So, it's these kinds of things, you know, that...that are being thrown away, that...we're still trying to figure out where away is. And so, instead of being thrown away, Cecile, in her...in her vision of upcycling these materials, are keeping them out of the landfill. And so, that's basically our...our mission with working with these products. I'd like to just--feel this stuff. What he has in his hand is five layers of the sheet . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . pallet sheets from Costco. We collect the pallet sheets, and then I'm able to put the machinery that I got through the grant, put that through the...together to make that thick of a weed mat. And then we get...from Hamai Appliance, we get the refrigerator boxes, and that offers us a longer...a longer sheet, which is...all the sheets are 17 inches wide, like that sheet there. This is the end piece, and...and so...we have--get narrower pieces also. But folks really love this stuff, and it's...it's really cool to see that folks are getting away from the plastic and the...and the...the weed mat. Now, one may ask, you know, well, what's the price? Well, the price . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . is...is not as cost effective as plastic or...or fabric, but at the same time, in the long run, it's a lot more effective in rebuilding your soils, and being able to regeneratively, you know, grow food, and...and deal and mitigate with the weed problem. One of the--and I'll wrap up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah.

MR. MINA: Yeah. Thanks, Councilmember. One of the...one of the...you know...you know, I never met a mic I didn't like, right?

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

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MR. MINA: The--one of...one of the final pieces to this is when you're using this and you're remediating your soil, it changes the weed profile, meaning that you won't get those deep-rooted, gnarly weeds anymore, and so that's one of the biggest pluses, for it to be able to, you know, do this. So, thank you very much, and thank you to Cecile Powell. She's a gem. Keep her. Treat her well because she'll treat the County well for years to come.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Vince. I have a question for you before I turn it over to the Members.

MR. MINA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, what is the name of your organization? I always think of you as Girls...no, not . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MR. MINA: Yeah, we're working through Lokahi Pacific.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. MINA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then organization?

MR. MINA: Is our grants administrator.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What...what organization are you?

MR. MINA: Individual.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, under Vincent Mina and . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MR. MINA: Yeah, Vincent...Vincent Mina, yeah. It's Kahanu 'Āina Greens is our farm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MINA: And...yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's...anybody have questions for Mr. Mina? Member Paltin.

MR. MINA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Mina. I just wanted to clarify what you said when it's not cost...as cost-effective as plastic. Like is it the machine that shreds it, or...you don't have to buy the cardboard that somebody else is throwing away?

MR. MINA: No. One of the beautiful things about what we're doing is we're taking materials that we don't have to pay for and...and upcycling them. The plastic is cheaper, you

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know, I mean in the--well, as far as the manpower it takes to get...to get the cardboard, to shred it, to distribute it, that kind of thing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like you just go to the store and buy it off the shelf rather than create your own kind of thing?

MR. MINA: Yeah. You know, this...this is a program that will basically help people be able to mitigate their soil issues.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then if somebody doesn't have the shredder, could they buy the shredded cardboard off the shelf from you?

MR. MINA: Yeah, we don't have it on the shelf yet. What we're developing is...is have it available on the website. But yeah, we're selling 20...20-pound bags of it to folks. It's 100...100 linear feet by 17 inches wide. And there's other folks that are going to be testifying, I believe, who are using it too. And I just got a testimonial from Bradley Mason from Lahainaluna, and I'll...I'll get that to you folks.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then in my yard, I just use the unshredded cardboard from whatever, like cereal boxes, whatever. Like what would be the difference if you don't shred the cardboard?

MR. MINA: Yeah, that's a good question. Thank you, Councilmember. When you don't shred the cardboard, it...it gets wet and it dries, it gets all crinkly, and...and it's just a...it's a mess. It really is a mess. This lays down beautifully, and moisture goes through it, and it...and it helps proliferate the beneficial microorganisms that keep the soil open so you...you don't have compacted situations. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I get little bit weeds coming through the seams of my cardboard.

MR. MINA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does that happen with your cardboards?

MR. MINA: Yeah, it...it'll...it'll happen. That's--over time, it'll stop, you know, because what you're doing is you're...you're being able to address the issues that are in the soil that are causing those gnarly weeds to begin with.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MINA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Very interesting. My clarifying question is, is that's a machine that you have a patent? Is that something that --

MR. MINA: No, no, it's...it's --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- you could--I mean, is that something you're willing to share that other people can possibly --

MR. MINA: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- be doing the same thing?

MR. MINA: Absolutely. Bradley Mason of Lahainaluna just got in touch with me saying, where'd you get it? I told him...he has a DOE grant that he's--they're...they're going to be getting one for Lahainaluna. So, ideally, would be...that would be the ideal, is to have it in every region. When I was President of the Farmers Union, I was promoting to have all the chapters--we had 16 chapters across the State--they all have a shredder. So, this way, you can create value in your region for, you know, being a chapter, and so people could have that access to that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much.

MR. MINA: Thank you for your question. I appreciate it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Mina.

MR. MINA: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony this morning.

MR. MINA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Nice to see you.

MR. MINA: Nice to see you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, to clarify, which...are...are you testifying--I...I heard your strong testimony for Ms. Powell, and we will not cut her from the budget.

MR. MINA: Good.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . But is there something...are...are you testifying on a specific pot of grants, or...

MR. MINA: Oh, yeah, to that...to that office in...in their being able to get the budgetary increases that they're looking for, so we can continue work like this to start...you know, to continue to upcycle materials that are normally going to the dump.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, perfect. So, to clarify, to approve their recommendations --

MR. MINA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for those increases.

MR. MINA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. MINA: Thank you. Appreciate that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

MR. MINA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. MINA: Thank you very much, everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you.

MR. MINA: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, aloha. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Deidre Tegarden, to be followed by JD Pells.

MS. TEGARDEN: Good morning, Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. My name is Deidre Tegarden, Executive Director for the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, and it is so nice to be here this morning. At a clubhouse meeting in 1952, the returning Nisei veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion adopted a motto of--for continuing service. They wanted to make things better for the community to which they came home. That motto manifested itself differently on all islands, but for Maui, it was the dream and subsequent building of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center campus, which began with the Kansha Preschool and Maui Adult Day Care Ocean View facility, one of the first intergenerational centers in the state. We have an archive which is home to over 10,000 items dating as far back as World War I. Our programming is free and open to the public. We regularly host school

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groups from junior high school to college, teachers, researchers, family members of veterans, and members of the public. The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center is requesting a line-item grant in the OED budget in the amount of \$25,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. The request is threefold: one, to support the showing in November of Defining Courage at 'Īao Theater; two, to create two supporting exhibits; and three, funding for additional intergenerational experiences between Kansha Preschool and the Maui Adult Day Care Ocean View facility. So, Defining Courage is an immersive multimedia experience created by ABC News journalist, David Ono. The show combines storytelling, photography, and video to honor the Japanese-American soldiers of World War II. Through personal stories and historical narratives, the show not only highlights their courage, but also underscores the broader themes of loyalty, perseverance, and justice. The two supporting exhibits...one is Faces of Valor, this exhibit will feature portraits and personal stories of Maui County Nisei soldiers; and Legacy of Service, which will highlight the continuing legacy of the Nisei, their post-war achievements, and the impact they have had on civil rights and community building. The third aspect of the ask is funding to help with the various intergenerational activities on our campus between Kansha Preschool and Maui Adult Day Care Ocean View facility. And speaking of Maui Adult Day Care Center, I will...I will close with this story. A few years ago, a woman from Hawai'i Island was visiting her friend at Maui Adult Day Care Center, and she decided to stop by our education center downstairs. Our Research Director, Melanie Agrabante, immediately recognized her name and brought out a box of the woman's brother, who had been killed in action in Italy. In the box was a letter from Truman, medals, but there was also this stack of beautiful postcards that I brought here today. And she looked at the postcards and she said, Clara (*phonetic*)? My name is Clara. And she read these postcards for the very first time in her life at the age of 98. They were cards that her brother had sent her from all over, but the parents had never shared with her, probably because he was killed in action. Anyway, these are some of the . . .(*timer sounds*). . . items from our archive, this is what we do, and we thank you for your generosity and potential support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Deidre Tegarden. And in the budget, Members, is \$25,000 put in by the Mayor to support this project. Anybody have any questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Tegarden, for your testimony. You know, for your exhibit on courage and things like that, is there also going to be connection to what is going on presently, and the justice for people right now?

MS. TEGARDEN: Thank you for that question. Yes, we always...we always try to take the...the stories, the sacrifices, the injustice, the prejudice that our veterans and their families went through, and showcase it through a, you know, social justice--today's lens of what...what's happening. So, we always have that along with our exhibits, you know, how does this...how does this, you know, speak to today?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I heard...had heard that the 442nd page got taken down. Has that been re-put up?

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MS. TEGARDEN: Yes. It was taken down, and we immediately worked with other nonprofit Japanese-American organizations, as well as social justice organizations. The page had since been put up...back up, but not completely, and not how it had initially been. So, we continue to work on that, and make sure it doesn't happen for any other organization either. I think one things...one thing that the Nisei veterans, and the internment, and redress view brought about was that this should have never happened to Japanese-Americans, but it should never happen to any...anybody at all.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you for your efforts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Anybody else has questions? Seeing none. Online? Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Tegarden.

MS. TEGARDEN: Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is JD Pells, to be followed by Kevin Collins. *(pause)* JD Pells is unmuted on our end. They'll just have to unmute themselves in the top right-hand corner. Oh, there you are.

MR. PELLs: Thanks for your patience. Aloha, Council. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. PELLs: Okay. Aloha, Council. My name's JD Pells. I am testifying regarding the recycling grants. I was a grantee for my business, Upcountry Curbside. We do curbside recycling services up in Kula, and we now actually service down in Spreckelsville...as far down as Spreckelsville, as well as Makawao and Pukalani. When my brother and I started the service...started doing curbside recycling in 2023, we kind of came together and had a discussion about the community needs, and this was one thing that we felt that we could do because it was--kind of had the ease-of-entry, and it was a gap I...I felt in...in our community. And so, we started doing it for free for a long time, and the County grant came around, and I was able to meet with Cecile. And she kind of gave me a chance when I wasn't sure if I would be able to continue doing this service. So, we were doing it for free for a long time, and then meeting with Cecile, she kind of empowered us to be able to start a business...and this is the first business that I've ever had the opportunity to start. And I feel that it's doing a public good, and if it can sustain me in any way just a little bit, then I'm satisfied, and I want to continue doing this...doing this program for my community. So, yeah, I just wanted to share a little bit about what we do, just as an example of what, you know, the grants kind of go towards, but I'm happy to answer any...any of your questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fantastic.

MR. PELLs: Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Can you tell me what the amount of your grant was, or you're looking for?

MR. PELLs: Yeah. The grants for 2024 to 2025 was 20,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PELLs: And we used that largely to procure a trailer. I'm actually using my personal truck right now, and I tow the trailer with it. And we also actually, in fact, got this cardboard machine as well.

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

MR. PELLs: So, we've been using...yeah, we've been using it and demonstrating it at the...at various schools Upcountry, and I just heard that Montessori's principal is looking to buy one as well --

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

MR. PELLs: -- for their school so they can use it on their garden.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. So, I think when you emailed me, I wondered if you were working with Mālama Kula because I think that they were doing something similar. So, you guys are...have you?

MR. PELLs: We...we've spoken, yeah. We...we--I know Kyle well, we're friends, and I think that our service is a little bit different. We...we carry a compre...we do comprehensive recycling, all...all the materials.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And the name of your organization?

MR. PELLs: It's Upcountry Curbside.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you did say that. Okay. Members, do you have any other questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, I just wanted to clarify, with the \$20,000 grant, now you've been able to expand and become self-sufficient...like you have customers, accounts, they pay you to do that recycling, or something like that?

MR. PELLs: Yes, Councilmember. Yeah. We have a subscription...monthly subscriptions, and the goal is to...to be financially-sustainable for this, and not rely on County grants in the future. However--and this is our second year, and we're still getting our foot...our footing, so the support is definitely appreciated right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What is...what is your service area, it's only Upcountry?



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MR. PELL: Only Upcountry for now, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, like Spreckels...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like are you looking to branch out to other districts with partners or anything?

MR. PELL: I...I would love to do that, yeah. I mean, I can envision it definitely for town...for town area, for sure. Yeah, I think it would be...it's more suitable for there anyways because their roads here tend to be narrow and, you know, the houses are further apart in town. You know, it's more congregated.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Keep us posted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you very much. Nice to see you.

MR. PELL: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier --

MR. PELL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Kevin Collins, to be followed by Katherine and Dean Trotzuk.

MR. COLLINS: Good morning. Thank you, aloha kākou...kākou. I probably butchered that. But my name's Kevin Collins, I am the owner of E-Cycling Maui, and we've kind of rebranded our facility to Rethink Recycle Center, located at the corner of Hansen and Pūlehu. And primarily, we recycle electronics on the County of Maui, and the--yeah, we appreciate the...you know, the County and the state's foresight and leadership in recycling and sustainability. In the last year, we have, and are, creating programs to handle universal and hazardous waste that is not...not allowed by State law in the County landfills. And the main item that I'm referring to is solar panels and lithium-ion batteries. And, you know, with the help of Cecile Powell, we have a grant to manage the solar panels for the community. And we're kind of reaching a tipping point where the early adopters of solar panels have...you know, they...they like the...the benefits that they get from the solar panels, saving on their electric bill, but those panels are reaching end-of-life, and the...the program that we created is to help them, you know, maybe upgrade their solar panels, but the...the panels that they're taking off their roof have to--can't go into the landfill because they're hazardous waste. So, you know, our goal is to be a liaison and the face of the community, and an education program with a fee structure to...you know, for these waste streams. So, we have a pretty large base yard. We kind of maybe overextended ourselves a little bit, but, you know, when the opportunity comes to you for...for a loading dock, and...and, you know, to have a more efficient base yard, you...you sometimes have to take...take advantage of those things.

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So, our...our base yard, like I said, is located at the corner of Hansen and Pūlehu. It's centrally located. It has a loading dock. So, we...we are in a position to be able to accept additional materials that should be diverted from the landfill, we just have to, you know, create a business plan and, you know, study the economic model of what...how to divert these materials from the landfill in association with the Solid Waste Department and the Sustainability Department. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Can I continue?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds. Thirty seconds.

MR. COLLINS: Okay. So...so, in addition--so, the Department wants...we wanted to help divert these materials from the landfill. We are agile...agile, and flexible and...at serving the community needs. The...like I said, the one program that we've been working on is the solar systems, and lithium-ion batteries, and inverters for the community. I would just say that, you know, re...regarding the...these programs and other programs, you know, the...the grants have been . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . essential in our ability to...to offer these programs to the community, so any additional funding that you can give for these programs would be great. In addition, we're working on a glass recycling program to keep...to not have to pay Young Brothers to ship glass off-island because we have a...we have a pulverizer on-island now at our base yard, and we'd like to...we'd like to implement that program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, can you tell me the name of your company?

MR. COLLINS: The company that has the e-cycling grant is called E-Cycling Mau...contract is called E-Cycling Maui, but our...our...the branding that we have at our facility is the Rethink Recycle Center at the corner of Hansen and Pūlehu.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And the amount of the grant that was awarded?

MR. COLLINS: \$80,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 80,000. And you are requesting for something similar in this new fiscal year?

MR. COLLINS: We...we feel like we need to study the economics of it because some of it has to do with community education between the...the installers, the community members. We are associating each, you know, \$500 that we give to a household with a TMK. So, we're just trying to create a program that makes economic sense for the community as well as for, you know, keeping the universal waste and the hazardous waste out of the landfills.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Anybody else have questions? Member Johnson, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for your testimony, and I...I'm looking at the chart here, you...it said you did get 80,000, but you...did you request 200,000, or was that --

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MR. COLLINS: I --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- someone else in--because you...you mentioned a couple other components.

MR. COLLINS: We...we've only --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. COLLINS: -- received this one grant for FY '25. I...I'm not...I...I --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. COLLINS: -- might have requested more in the past because --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Could you handle more? Could...do you have the capacity to --

MR. COLLINS: We have the capacity to handle all sorts of waste streams, and we want to study the economic models of each one of those waste streams. And...and really, that's...you know, that's what our goal is, is to create a community recycling center that makes economic sense, and is sustainable economically and, you know, for the...for the...for the community.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo for your testimony this morning. I...I have several questions now after Member Johnson's question. Okay. So, first, the 80,000 is for the repurposing of retired PV panels only?

MR. COLLINS: It would be for--as the...as the solar panels become inefficient, the state law requires the solar panels--they can...they are not allowed to go into that landfill because they're considered hazardous waste. So, what we've done is we've created a system to re...not--repurpose if we can, but mostly, we're finding people don't want to repurpose old solar panels because they're--it doesn't--it's not worth the labor that they want...they...they need a place to take the solar panels. And then we go through the recycling process of, you know, taking the aluminum off, and...and...and processing the panels, and taking...and sending them off-island so they can be disposed of by a certified recycling facility.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification. I understand. On Moloka'i, we are repurposing old panels as --

MR. COLLINS: At some point --

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- nano grids.

MR. COLLINS: At some point, those panels will become...they won't generate electricity anymore at that point.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Absolutely. And I don't want them on Moloka'i.

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, the 80,000, you're...you're saying two things that I'm hearing. One is that you're doing the work of dismantling these panels and then shipping them off-island --

MR. COLLINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- but you're also saying that you want to study the economic model. So, the 80,000 is going toward the work of dismantling the panels, or the...the studying --

MR. COLLINS: It's --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the economics of it, or both?

MR. COLLINS: It's...it's kind of the whole program, and--but in reality, we're giving a \$500 credit to--per TMK to the ho...individual homeowners to help offset the cost of--which is \$1.50 per pound...so it ends up being about \$60 per panel. So, if...but if they have, you know, more than \$500 worth of panels, you know, the...the...the County, right now, is paying \$500 per panel to help the community offset the cost of recycling solar panels.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. And then shifting from the PV panels to the recycling glass. So, none of the 80,000 is going toward the glass project you were talking about, repurposing --

MR. COLLINS: No, the glass is a future...future program. We have the equipment, we...we purchased the equipment, and we are trying to bring it online now in order to, you know, look at the...the economic feasibility of the money that normally goes to shipping the glass off-island and keeping it out of the landfill to processing it into a material that can be used for septic systems and for...for percolation. It's...it's a...it's a...and it's a landscaping material as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, that work, you're going to be doing --

MR. COLLINS: It's in the future.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- regardless of any grants?

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MR. COLLINS: Well, we're...we've...we...we did purchase the equipment with...with...you know, with our...with our own funds --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

MR. COLLINS: -- but we do...we do need to study the economic feasibility of the project, you know, to...to understand. Because we have to create a whole market for the recycled glass that --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Correct.

MR. COLLINS: -- we create. So, we're...we're just unsure of the economic feasibility --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. COLLINS: -- of the whole project.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. At some point in...on the Council, someone had--I don't know...I don't remember if there was a machine or not, but there was...someone was looking at putting it into like the mix for asphalt or, you know, doing pavement, but also to replace like gravel and stuff.

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, that...that's exactly the same thing we're doing. We...we...but we have the machine, it was already on-island, and we're just--you know, it's a whole learning process for us. Because each time we get into a new waste stream, we have to--you know, that...that's what happened with e-waste, it was...it was converted from a grant to a contract, and we've proven ourselves over the last six years of being able to take that contract and make an economically-viable business that, you know, accepts all of the electronic waste in the County of Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I could talk waste diversion all day, but I will stop there. Thank you so much.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, for the flexibility.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. You mentioned you have a pul...pulverizer for the...for the glass?

MR. COLLINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Can you melt it down, or make building material out of it?

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MR. COLLINS: No, it's...it's strictly to crush it, and pulverize it, and make it safe to walk on.  
And then it --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. COLLINS: -- also has percolation characteristics --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. COLLINS: -- so...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So, you're using it for that. Did you...did you consider  
like a shredder for abandoned vehicles?

MR. COLLINS: Shredders are very expensive, and they have...there's a lot of maintenance  
associated with them. I'm...I'm sure there will be maintenance associated with our glass  
pulverizer. I think it's...it's viable. It's a viable model. I think from  
automobile...the...the thing that I've seen for automobiles is the excavator that has  
the...the real precise thing that disassembles the car until they'll...wiring, the motors,  
the trans...you know, it's like--you know, that's...that's another option for --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. COLLINS: -- abandoned vehicles.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- for the leeway.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members has a lot of questions for you. Do you have a website?  
Because I think we're getting off--track --

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, my website --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- more than what you're --

MR. COLLINS: I have a website, Rethink Recycle Center, but it's...it's in progress. It's not the  
best.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you haven't completed it?

MR. COLLINS: It's...it's not as good as I'd like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. So, going back to what he originally was here for,  
Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is the plant study that you're referring to, you're going to do the study, or you're going to contract it out?

MR. COLLINS: A study regarding the...the glass or the solar panels?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You said you thought you needed to do a study, and you were asking for money. Are you doing the study, or are you contracting it?

MR. COLLINS: No, no. What I'm saying is we have...we have a grant right now where we are accepting solar panels, and we...you know, we...we give the community, each homeowner...the County --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I heard what you said, but you're asking money --

MR. COLLINS: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for a study?

MR. COLLINS: Every...every waste stream, you know, we have to study the economic viability of how we process that waste stream. That's really all I'm saying.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And I'm asking, are you doing the study, or are you contracting it out?

MR. COLLINS: So, we just...we have to, you know, figure out our...what our overhead is, how much it costs to maintain the equipment, how much labor is, how much insurance is, all the...all the things that --

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

MR. COLLINS: -- would make electronic wa...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just...I'm trying to clarify, you want us to pay you to do the math for your business?

MR. COLLINS: No. What I'm trying to say is that when a waste stream is going to be processed, you know, we have to just...you know, we have to learn what the...what the business model is for processing that waste stream.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What is...what is the money for? Is it...because this is a budget, I just...are you going to pay somebody --

MR. COLLINS: Well, currently, we have a grant, and we...we are...we...we appreciate that the County--expanding the grants monies available to continue new waste streams.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. COLLINS: All right. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Katherine and Dean Trotzuk, to be followed by Charlotte O'Brien.

MS. TROTZUK: Good morning. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TROTZUK: Yes, good. And I'm hoping--we...we only have one computer, we're off-island right now. Dean would like to testify after me, if that's possible. You can let me know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, it's however you signed up. We're taking them in order. We don't let you skip around if he didn't sign up after you, but we'll call the next testifier, and you can see. Could you start with your --

MS. TROTZUK: I see, okay. Of course. Of course. So, I'm testifying in asking you to consider reducing the commercial-residential property tax rates. We're full-time residents of Maui. We're the only business that I know of which is required to shut down if we go off-island, which we are now, right, for...for another week, but we're taxed at higher rates than some mainland owners. We live on Halama Street in Kihei, and we operate a legal B&B. Between the increases in assessed values and property tax rates, our tax burden has more than doubled in just the last five years. And meanwhile, a number of our immediate neighbors, all within six houses of us, and all with much newer homes than we have, paid proportionately less. One neighbor, who's Canadian, spends at most three months a year on Maui, but somehow got owner-occupied status, and pays a tiny fraction of our bill. Another neighbor lives in California, but rents out his Maui 'ohana long...long-term, and so also pays proportionately less than we do. And then a third neighbor is a Maui resident who lives full-time, but doesn't rent his 'ohana to anyone, and again, pays just a fraction of what we do. And so, as Maui residents, following the law and contributing to Maui's economy and community, these increases are feeling so punitive and unsustainable, and we ask that you reduce them so that not another legal Maui business is being shut down.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Anybody have any questions? Miss...Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Trotzuk. I was wondering if you could provide the address for your Canadian neighbor that's receiving the homeowner exemption?

MS. TROTZUK: Sure. I've already done it online and I never got any...I never heard anything. It's 1750 Halama Street.



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Anybody else have any questions?

MS. TROTZUK: Can my...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TROTZUK: And does--can my husband say his piece if I still have time on the three minutes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. That's not how --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's according to how people signed up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but they don't have the chat function enabled, so all they would do is raise their hand. There's no way for two people on a same computer to sign up.

MS. TROTZUK: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because we don't --

MS. TROTZUK: And we did try to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- enable the chat function. So, if she raised her hand two times, that would mean --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we're not using the chat function during the meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, there's no way for her to sign up, is the point.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But she could...why couldn't she just raise her hand?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. TROTZUK: I did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry.

MS. TROTZUK: I did.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, for her husband. She's trying to get her husband to finish off her three minutes.

MS. TROTZUK: I did it multiple times.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They only have one computer, that's why.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, can you...can--are you done testifying?

MS. TROTZUK: I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TROTZUK: I'm...I'm done, but he's right here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's see who the next testifier is. It just might be your husband.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Her husband cannot --

MS. TROTZUK: No, he's --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- sign up --

MS. TROTZUK: -- right next to me.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- because they are sharing a computer. And she raised her hand on the one computer. So, there's two of them on one computer. So, there's no way for Staff to know that there are two people.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. TROTZUK: I tried to do a message, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TROTZUK: -- there was no --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll call your husband next.

MS. TROTZUK: -- messaging capabilities.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is your husband's name, Dean?

MS. TROTZUK: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Dean?

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MS. TROTZUK: Dean.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TROTZUK: Trotzuk.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

MS. TROTZUK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go get your husband.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Dean Trotzuk. Dean Trotzuk. . . .*(alarm sounds)*. . . Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ma'am, your husband can testify. Yeah, go get him.

MS. TROTZUK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go get him.

MS. TROTZUK: Here he is.

MR. TROTZUK: All right. Hello, aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hello.

MR. TROTZUK: Can you hear...can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, I can hear you and we can see you.

MR. TROTZUK: Lovely. Okay. Thank you very much. I'm somewhat reiterating what my wife is mentioning, but let me start. And I would sincerely like to thank all...all of you Councilmembers for being here today, taking the time to consider the concerns of your fellow islanders, and I know that everybody has their best interests at heart. And I'm--as my wife mentioned, I'm...I'm asking you to contemplate lowering the real estate taxes...tax rates that are designated for bed and breakfasts, which are classified as commercialized residential. And...and like, you know, I think a starting point would be so that they were equal to those categorized as owner-occupied homeowners, and therefore treating them in a much more equitable manner compared with other Maui residents who own and live on the island. We've operated the B&B for the last several years, and it's been a great experience. It's been a very challenging environment for us and other B&B operators. As everyone knows, the prices of goods, services, and taxes have all dramatically increased over the last five, six years, and in fact, our property

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taxes, over the past five years, as my wife mentioned, have more than doubled, certainly outstripping any...any cost of inflation and the appreciation in the value of our home and property. We're required to reside on the...the property while we're renting to guests, and we need to live on the island in the property. We're greatly incentivized to invest and support our community. As being the owners, we contribute to our special island in many ways. We spend a great deal for services, both professional, trade, and technical, in order to keep the property in an attractive manner. Also, our guests renumerate the County and State coffers through accommodation taxes, ultimately benefiting local residents and improving local amenities. And so, especially, we spend our dollars where we live. Now, the discrepancy afforded between real property tax rates to B&B owners versus those categorized as owner-occupied homeowners is substantial. For the next tax year--and this is assuming that the mooted decrease in owner-occupied . . .(timer sounds). . . homeowners doesn't increase--our taxes are going to be about two-and-a-half times--about \$30,000--what it would be if we were classified as owner-occupied homeowners. So, I guess in conclusion, I would beseech you to take a reasonable course of action of lowering tax rates designated for commercial-residential homeowners in order to rectify what I and others believe an...is an inequitable tax rate, and allow these small businesses . . .(timer sounds). . . to continue to operate and contribute to our blessed island. Thank you very, very much for your time and attention.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions?

MS. TROTZUK: Thank you for letting us both do it.

MR. TROTZUK: Yes, thank you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. TROTZUK: -- for accommodating us. Appreciate it a great deal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. All right. Thank you very much. No questions. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Charlotte O'Brien, to be followed by Teri Ramelb. Apologies if I mispronounced your name.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yes, and I made a small slideshow last night for you so it's...it's much easier to explain if you can see the photos. Is there someone that could post it for me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, we don't do that. We'll accept your verbal testimony. Thank you.

MS. O'BRIEN: It'll be a lot more difficult to understand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. O'BRIEN: I...I worked until 11:00 last night to make this.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry. You can submit it to us, then --

MS. O'BRIEN: But it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- then Members can share it later, but not during your testimony.

MS. O'BRIEN: Okay. So, I'm Charlotte O'Brien. Thank you for being here, and thank you for doing a thankless job. I'm with Food Security Hawai'i. We are converting waste to beneficial microbes for the benefit of food security, rege...replantation, and the --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Charlotte...yeah.

MS. O'BRIEN: Closer?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MS. O'BRIEN: And the--getting rid of toxic use...the use of toxic agricultural chemicals. We are...we...we have a large greenhouse out of the old sunflower farm where we are making our microbes in what is called a bioreactor. They're called Johnson-Su bioreactors. It takes about 2,000 pounds of waste in a bioreactor, converts it into 700 pounds of an inoculant. This is not compost, this is an inoculant. It only takes two pounds of an inoculant per acre of land agriculturally, so it's a very efficient way to convert it into a type of microbe that's called quorum-sensing and full-spectrum. It's a very unique type of microbe if you follow David Johnson. We're really happy to be doing it. We are--now also have contracts with the County...with the County Parks and Rec, where every...once a week at 5:00, we're out there at the golf course, putting microbes and other things on the golf...on hole number 6. So, we've got a six-month contract to show what we can do. And more importantly, we're testing...we're testing nontoxic herbicides, and we are also making our own fertilizer from waste products from O'ahu. There's a company there that takes old...that takes slaughter remnants, and fish remnants, and...and meat from packing companies, and they make it into a meat and bonemeal, and then we...we...we add extra nutrients to it. So, it's about 85 percent local, and we add about 15 percent of other things to make a complete fertilizer. And then we have three types of nontoxic herbicides that we're testing. So, we're working...the guys at the County are great to work with. They're just amazingly wonderful to work with. They're embracing what we're doing, and trying it at their own homes. They're requesting me to take stuff home so they can try it on their own lands and their own neighbor's stuff. So, once we get it all figured out, we'll have a full year's solution for turf management, and I'm really happy about that, and it's...it's awesome that we can take the time to really experiment. And I have the pictures to show you. . . .(laughing). . . We have things that we're doing, but I'll send it in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah, what else? Yeah. So, we...we don't...we're not looking for another grant, we just want to tell you what we're doing with an EP&S grant.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you are...you received an EP&S grant?

MS. O'BRIEN: We did receive an EP&S grant last year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the name of your company is --

MS. O'BRIEN: Food Security Hawai'i.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Food Security? Oh, okay.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's the whole name?

MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the amount of the grant?

MS. O'BRIEN: 133,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Food Security Hawai'i.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yep.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . All right, Member Paltin.

MS. O'BRIEN: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just thank you, very happy to hear.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yep.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo for your testimony. Do you know where you sent your written testimony last night?

MS. O'BRIEN: No, I...I have it right here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I see, I see.

MS. O'BRIEN: I was...I was just going to show you the slides and talk about them, which is much easier than...yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I was looking for it online because you can submit all the photos and everything --

MS. O'BRIEN: I will do that right now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- on eComment --

MS. O'BRIEN: Yep, as soon as --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- so --

MS. O'BRIEN: -- I get out of here, I'll do that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I'll check it out. Mahalo for your testimony --

MS. O'BRIEN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and mahalo for your work.

MS. O'BRIEN: Thank you. I don't have words on it, I just...it was because I was going to speak to it, but...yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. O'BRIEN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll look forward to receiving your information.

MS. O'BRIEN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Thank you. Any questions, Members? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Teri Ramelb, to be followed by David Whitney.

MS. RAMELB: Good morning, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning.

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MS. RAMELB: So, my name is Teri Ramelb, and I'm...I'm here on behalf of my parents, Herman and Peggy Nascimento, who are long-time residents that lives at 1117 Makawao Avenue. The reason I'm here today is to discuss the parking lot that sits behind my parents' property. I do understand that this was built to accommodate the overflow of the parking of the Makawao Town shops. I do agree that this was needed, and it's currently being used. During the business hours, the first half of the parking lot can be filled, but since Stopwatch has closed their business, the parking lot directly behind my parents' home, which sits at the very end, is hardly ever used. The only time that you would see the parking lot filled is at the 4th of July parade. Over time, the parking lot has become very unsafe, with intimidation towards my parents' home. There's drug deals, there's gang fights, there's homelessness, people living in their cars, and even at times, sexual activity that has become a normal occurrence. My dad voiced his concern...sorry...during the planning of this parking lot. He had assured that there was precautions that was going to be taken to ensure the privacy and the safety of his home, which it includes the building of a wall. There is only a two- or a three-course wall that was ever built by the County. The existing post and the fire fence is the only thing that separates my parents' yard from the parking lot. People are using our--the property, my mom's property, as a public walkway to get from the parking lot to the main street of Makawao Avenue. They do this at all hours of the day and night. I guess the question is, if anything happens, is my parents responsible should someone get hurt on their property? We've lost our dad last year July, and this ongoing activity in the parking lot causes my mom to feel very unsafe with significant anxiety to be in her own home. We have installed flood lights so we could light up the back parking lot. We're currently looking into a security system, anything to keep my mom safe. Since my dad's passing, my siblings and I are taking turns to be with my mom seven days a week to ensure her safety, and to ease her mind. I understand that we are just one voice, and given that we . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . are the only residential on that street and then are affected by this parking lot. Does the problem occur every night? No, it doesn't. But it does occur on a weekly basis. Prior to my dad's passing, he would confront and chase these people away. We have been very fortunate so far that nothing serious has happened. However, as you know, it would only take one time for something tragic to happen to my mom. I--we are here kindly to ask you to consider a similar gate that can be installed similar to the ones . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . that you put up at the Makawao Library, Wells Park, Giggie Hill, and if this could help to prevent any unwanted activities and try to keep my mom as safe as you could. And then thank you for allowing me to be here today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you for sharing that story, and appreciate that. Members have questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Ramelb. Mahalo for your testimony this morning. So, when you contacted the County about constructing or, you know, keeping their...their word to complete this wall with a gate or the protections, the separation, what...what was the response from the County?

MS. RAMELB: So, what my mom had said when the wall was planning to...or not the wall, the parking lot was planning to be built, it was assured at that time to my dad that precautions was going to be taken. A wall was supposed to be put up, but the only



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thing that they did, like I said, was only like a two- to three-tier wall, concrete wall, which some of them is broken. And it's usually just...it's just actually right in front of my mom's home that there is a wall. There is no wall anywhere from the beginning up until my mom's home, but nothing else was done. The post that you see there, and the wire fence that you see there, I believe belongs to the people who owns the pasture next to my mom's property. The only thing the County did was put that small wall that--which was supposed to be a bigger wall to keep people out, and that has never happened.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, your parents contacted the County to make good on --

MS. RAMELB: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- finishing the wall?

MS. RAMELB: So, when my dad was attending the planning while the parking lot was going to be made, that's when it was told to him...but it didn't happen.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You...you know the address? Okay. Okay, okay.

MS. RAMELB: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for --

MS. RAMELB: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- all the details.

MS. RAMELB: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for being here. All right, next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is David Whitney, to be followed by Tapani Vuori.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Member Nohe U'u-Hodgins, welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I didn't welcome you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sorry for my tardiness. I had a dentist appointment this morning, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we knew you were going to be.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: But I'm here now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: My teeth are very nice and clean.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . That's important, your health. Thank you very much. Nice to see you.

MR. WHITNEY: Thank you and good morning. My name's David Whitney, and I'm testifying in support of the Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System. I'm a civil engineer, and...and I've been working with the Mā‘alaea Village Association on the planning for the wastewater treatment plant. I'm not sure what details you know, but Mā‘alaea has 24 injection wells, and each injection well is currently permitted with a State wastewater underground injection control permit. And to the best of my knowledge, they're complying with the treatment requirements in the permit. Unfortunately, the...the treatment requirements are not adequately protecting Mā‘alaea Bay, and so there are nutrients and other contaminants that are being discharged into the groundwater that ultimately find their way into the nearshore marine ecosystem. So, our goal with the wastewater treatment plant is to take everybody off of the injection wells, send the wastewater to a single wastewater treatment plant to produce R-1 effluent. R-1 effluent is the cleanest or highest water quality permitted in the State of Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i actually has really progressive wastewater reuse rules and regulations, and we've used that as a model for wastewater reuse elsewhere on the mainland. I live here on Maui. Our company...my company's EcoSolutions, it's here on Maui as well. Our intention is to take the R-1 effluent and use that as irrigation water to irrigate a green break, which is a combination of a green belt and a fire break. In doing that, we will eliminate the discharge of wastewater into the groundwater because the green break is irrigated at a rate that the plants will uptake all the wastewater, and so that way it doesn't percolate down through the ground and get back down into the groundwater. There have been questions too about--well, the development is on the shoreline. We have sea-level rise concerns, so the location of the treatment plant is located outside of the sea-level-rise zone. It's additionally located outside of the tsunami evacuation zone, so that should provide adequate protection for many years to come. And that's all I've got because I'm the civil engineer on the project, but . . .*(laughing)*. . . --

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

MR. WHITNEY: -- happy to answer any questions that...that you might have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Anybody have questions? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Mr. Whitney. So, the...the injection wells, are they like cesspools? What...what is in...could you describe what the injection wells are, and what's going to happen to them when they're no longer being used?

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MR. WHITNEY: Sure. So, the injection wells are really simple. They're four-foot diameter pipes that go about 60 feet down into the ground...30 feet of that is perforated pipe. And...and I will say that each...the...the water, before it goes into the injection wells, there is some modest amount of wastewater treatment that occurs, so they're always--water comes from the buildings, goes into an aerated tank which removes, you know, most of the carbon, and the solids are screened out. But you still have bacteria, and you still have nutrients that are in it. So, then the process would be, those tanks that are there on-site would be abandoned; the condos would have to purchase pump station units to pump the waste across Hau'oli Street to a proposed sewer force main; the wells would, in all likelihood, be filled with flowable grout, so they would be closed and sealed.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir.

MR. WHITNEY: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Whitney. Mahalo for your testimony. Since you know about the project, do you know about the funding of the project?

MR. WHITNEY: There...there is a funding request from the County for--I believe it's 1.25 million for--that would go --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The overall funding of the completion of the project?

MR. WHITNEY: The overall funding...I believe that there is additional funding that is planned from the County. There also...there's an EPA grant, and our...probably our next speaker, Tapani, can...can speak to that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. WHITNEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. WHITNEY: Is that it? Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Tapani Vuori, to be followed by Jimmy Kincaid.

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MR. VUORI: Good morning, Chair, Vice-Chair. Good morning, Councilmembers. I appreciate being able to be here this morning and you hearing this...about these topics. I'm here...well, first of all, I wear multiple hats in our community. As you may know, I'm the General Manager at Maui Ocean Center. I'm also a board member with Mā'alaēa Village Association. I'm a board member with Mā'alaēa Triangle Association. I'm the founder and President of MOC Marine Institute, we have the only turtle hospital in the State of Hawai'i, and we do extensive coral work in the State of Hawai'i. When Honolua Bay had a boat strike, State of Hawai'i actually called us to go and pick up the coral for taking care of it, and now most of it has been planted back. And really focused on education as well. I'm here on behalf of Mā'alaēa Village Association Wastewater Working Group, and I respectfully ask you to support a \$1.25 million line item on--in the budget to support the civil engineer, planning, and permitting, and site preparation work for this regional wastewater treatment plant. To answer the earlier question there about the overall budget, the follow-up need will be \$8.25 million next year in the Maui County budget. In 2022, we were awarded SR...SRF funding from the State Revolving Fund for the entire project. At that time, when we met with the Administration, we were actually number six on the project list for the entire State of Hawai'i. First five ones were actually court-mandated cases, so this particular project stood on its own merits, and it was deemed a high priority at that point. Maui Administration, County Administration asked us to forfeit our place, and--which we agreed to do--and in lieu of a project being funded through Maui budgeting process. So, this is why we are here today as a result. Like Dave was mentioning, we have \$1.25 million from EPA that we are in the process of finalizing right now. We received a quarter-million-dollar private donation from a community member here on Maui as a 20 percent match. Remember, this is all volunteer efforts. I'm a volunteer. I will never get paid for this work that we've been doing six years. And just to give you an idea, this started over six years ago when Peter Cannon and I, we sat down, and we were talking, and he was lamenting. He had a tear in his eye, and he said, Tapani, I remember how Mā'alaēa Bay used to be like Tahiti. We had coral, we had limu, we had 'ōpae . . . *(inaudible)*. . . and very colorful shells everywhere. And I'm sure everyone here knows the value of Keālia Pond watershed. That's really a pearl of the Pacific. . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . And it's really a holistic approach. So, I want to bring your attention to--you know, thank you for your support on working with...public trust land issue on Mala Mauka with Peter Martin and TPL, and Maui County was instrumental, and...and now it's under the guidance of DOFAW. They're writing a restoration plan. Mā'alaēa Bay's in bear 303D classified marine . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tapani, can you...can you finalize your testimony?

MR. VUORI: Yeah. So, if you don't do this, what will happen? Nothing will happen. Mā'alaēa Bay marine ecosystem will be destroyed, and we have an opportunity to address it. I ask your consideration to support this because this will solve this issue. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I...I have a question, then I'll turn it over to Member Johnson. Going back to Me...Member Rawlins-Fernandez' question...so in the budget, you were right, there's...there is the funding, right, in this department?

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MR. VUORI: That's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And then you're saying that there's another EPA grant for the same amount?

MR. VUORI: We are currently working on an EPA grant, and we applied, I believe, last year, and they have approved it. We worked with Senator Schatz, he worked with Biden Infrastructure Funding, and we were able to secure a \$1 million EPA Biden Infrastructure Fund for this particular project. It requires a 20 percent match. Like I said, we do not have any operating cash, we are all-volunteer effort, and we were able to secure a private community donation for the match, quarter-million dollars.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you have your EPA grant, and then --

MR. VUORI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this amount in the County budget. And you said that next year, you need another 5 million?

MR. VUORI: 8.25 million, that's what we have in the plans.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 8.25.

MR. VUORI: 5, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you send us your budget in writing, all your...your financial spread in writing so we understand what your big picture is --

MR. VUORI: Like the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and how much --

MR. VUORI: I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this total...you're looking at total costs for Mā'alaea Village, and how much of it you're looking for from the County of Maui?

MR. VUORI: I believe I have shared, but be happy to share it again. This year, it's 1.25 million, next year, 8.25 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 8.25 million?

MR. VUORI: Yes. Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm going to turn it over, but--to Member Johnson. I do remember that you were in discussion with us about Mā'alaea Village wanting to do your own wastewater treatment plant, and then it was--went to our...our Central Maui

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Wastewater Reclamation Facility, but now you're taking it back and you want to do your own?

MR. VUORI: This process initially started with the two other condominiums in Mā'alaea Triangle Association. We paid for a wastewater engineering feasibility survey by Brown and Caldwell, which they completed six years ago, that cost over \$30,000. Maui County at that time, under the Kelly King guidance, provided an additional \$6,000 to evaluate the connection, or the possibility of conveyance to the sunflower farm in that area, or even to Maui Tropical Plantation. As you remember, the discussions have been really to create a wastewater connection there for some time in the Maui Central facility. It turned out that the regional wastewater facility was the most cost-effective way of doing it. We are confident we will be able to deliver this at a surplus operating cost for Maui County when the--all the stakeholders are--become ratepayers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Tapani, can you then submit to us in writing what your plan is?

MR. VUORI: Okay. Be happy to.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And also, are--is--when you say the ratepayers, so that's--I'm going to assume you're talking about Mā'alaea Village Association. And we have a Community Facilities District opportunity that comes with...that's part of the County that all your Mā'alaea Village members can pay for this with implementing the Community Facilities District process. So, that's just a thought --

MR. VUORI: That has been in discussions, that's correct, but that has not progressed anywhere at this point.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It has not what?

MR. VUORI: But that has not gone anywhere at this point, the CFD process.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, nobody is looking at them, the Village --

MR. VUORI: I don't believe so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They don't want to pay for this themselves, and they want the County to pay for this, is what you're saying?

MR. VUORI: I'm not sure if that's a correct characterization of it. All the community members, they will need to pay for removal of injection wells, reclamation of it or cleaning the site, and they will need to pay for a lateral, plus they are responsible for the O&M, operations and maintenance, of the facility.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I look forward to you providing us more information on the --

MR. VUORI: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- financial impacts, and what this means for --

MR. VUORI: Be happy to.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Anybody else have questions? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You...you...good morning, Tapani. Good to see you.

MR. VUORI: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The State Revolving Fund queue, you--that's one thing you mentioned, you said you were number five or number six, you're --

MR. VUORI: Number six.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- number six. You're totally ready to go, everybody else was court-ordered so you seem to be top of the list, and then you dropped out on the request of the...of the Admin, is that . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. VUORI: Of the Maui County Administration. The basis for that request was that Maui County wanted to utilize the SRF position for other projects.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks for that. The term, "imperiled [sic] body of water," or...is that the term you used?

MR. VUORI: Impaired body of water --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Impaired?

MR. VUORI: -- EPA classifies as 303D.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, that term is a technical term by the EPA. Does that allow you certain grants or extra type of funding? I mean, it's a very specific word, it's...and it's done by the EPA, a certain classification. Does it give us any other funding methods?

MR. VUORI: Well, EPA's funding --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. VUORI: -- this project now by \$1 million. Actually, that triggers consequences for communities because now we are in violation of Clean Water Act --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. VUORI: -- of 1972 and '74. The --

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, no carrots, just the stick? . . . *(laughing)* . . .

MR. VUORI: There you go.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, I got it. All right. So, those were my questions, and thank you so much, Tapani. Thank you, Chair.

MR. VUORI: Thank you, sir.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Vuori.

MR. VUORI: Hello.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony today. Okay. So, to clarify, you said that Mā'alaea was beautiful before the vacation-rental complexes were built there, and then they destroyed it with their sewage, and they want all the taxpayers to now pay for the damage they created?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Pretty much.

MR. VUORI: That's a mischaracterization of the issue. When Maui County changed the zoning in the community--I...I believe it was Mayor Tavares--it used to be residential zoning. It was changed to hotel because the County wanted to create a tourism-resort area of the Mā'alaea area. And as a result, a lot of the families, they needed to actually either develop the lots that they had, or--because they had to pay higher taxes now as a result--or they had to sell it. Most of them ended up selling. I believe there's still one more Nelson property that is on...on--you know, in the area. At that time, in '70s, the injection wells--Kihei Wastewater Plant came online, I believe, and at that time, injection wells were purchased second-hand from Kihei, and three of them have failed already. And regardless of that, the issue is in the ocean because it's all connected, and we have less than 5 percent coral-reef ecosystem coverage. Limu is pretty much gone, and...those can be restored once we address the anthropomorphic issues, which are human-induced issues. Sedimentation, we are in the process of addressing that in the community, as I mentioned earlier. This addresses the nutrient issues. I understand your question or concern, why is the community not response for it? We have bigger issues like --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, and...and if you're going to characterize it as community, what I said was the unit owners there that are profiting off of the units there. So, not the extended taxpayers, which would then be contributing to footing the bill for this.



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MR. VUORI: Well, all the unit owners would be paying because they would become rate...ratepayers. We have formed a 501(c)12, which is a community benefit association, which is a form of nonprofit --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . is a co-op, yeah.

MR. VUORI: -- very similar what's happening on Kaua'i, and that will be the entity that will be actually operating this facility when it comes back online. Our hope that we can deliver this cost-effectively, technologically-advanced, that it will yield very good results, and in the process, we are also planning to train the wastewater treatment facility employees to operate this plant. We hope that one day Maui County --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We pay for it.

MR. VUORI: -- will actually take it over and operate it --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We pay for it.

MR. VUORI: -- because the --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We pay for it.

MR. VUORI: -- microbe creates decentralized solutions are really the...for the future.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. And then you --

MR. VUORI: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- said that you...you folks did discuss CFD as the Chair asked, and it was not supported?

MR. VUORI: We have not discussed CFD seriously in-depth, no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. But there's all this damage, and you are coming here first before having a discussion of the CFD? Okay, mahalo.

MR. VUORI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Member Cook, then anybody else--did Member Kama have a question? You did, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, me.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And Member --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we'll go to Member Cook, then Chair Lee, and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. You and I have met many times on this. I'm very familiar with the project. Five years ago, when we spoke, I wasn't supportive of the County doing it. I am supportive now. I recognized the current condition of Mā'alaea Bay. I recognize the efforts that a lot of nonprofits, yourself and other people, are ex...really passionately pursuing to rectify this. I also have felt concern and a little bit anx [sic] about the various people who own the units not necessarily paying for it, but I'd look at it now as an environmental issue or community issue, bigger than who and what. So, you've convinced me--you and Peter--the depth and the...the real, genuine engineering that you put into this, and thoughtfulness. So, I'm supportive of it, I just...I understand people's concern about who's paying for it and what, I just want to fix everything we can to rectify the ocean condition, and deal with it later somehow, some way. Thank you.

MR. VUORI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My question is...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Member...Chair Lee.

MR. VUORI: Thank you, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. My question has to do with the number of people that are directly affected in the Mā'alaea area. How many residents are directly affected? Do you know?

MR. VUORI: I believe...if I remember the number, I can double-check it, I think it is 653 commercial units as well. They will be folded under this regime at the same time. We also have a larger opportunity to look at the harbor. We've spoken with State Harbors Division, they currently have an MBR unit that is operating the harbor. It's not fully-functional.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So how many residents? How many residents are there?

MR. VUORI: I believe 653.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Directly...650? I thought you said it was the commercial people? It's a com...combination of commercial --

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MR. VUORI: Also combination, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- and residential --

MR. VUORI: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But the people who actually live there on a regular basis and create the waste, how many people are there? I'm just trying to dis...think about how many people that we are subsidizing, or thinking of subsidizing. Because when you talk about the \$8 million, is that the end of it? It's \$8 million to create the system, and maintain it, and remove all the things that do all the remediation on the...the old equipment, and so forth?

MR. VUORI: Let me clarify that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What's the total price tag on this project?

MR. VUORI: Total cost --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What is the total price tag on...

MR. VUORI: Total cost is about \$12 million plus-minus 4...4 percent. All the injection wells, and the lateral...lateral connections, and the remediation is the cost that the condo owners will bear. Same thing, actually, for the Mā'alaia Triangle Association, so we are also responsible doing our share. So, \$12-1/2 million, this is going to be very cost-effective wastewater solution for Maui County and our community at large.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But I still, you know, would love to know how many people...actual people from Maui that we will be helping in that area.

MR. VUORI: I'm not sure if I --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If you can provide us that?

MR. VUORI: Can you...can you clarify the term, actual people? I'm not sure if I understand.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, the --

MR. VUORI: Are you meaning long-term residents?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- the people who live...who live there, who actually live there?

MR. VUORI: I believe we have --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Not visitors, but...

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MR. VUORI: I believe it's about 30 percent, but I can verify that. I can provide that number for the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The--30 percent of 600?

MR. VUORI: I believe so, somewhere in that range. They --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, you're talking about --

MR. VUORI: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You're talking about 90 people? How...how many people are you talking about?

MR. VUORI: Well, that would give you a rough guideline.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Six--no, 60, 60, 60. Three times 60, 180 people --

MR. VUORI: Yeah --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- is all you're talking about?

MR. VUORI: -- we are looking into toilets, ma'am, and bedrooms, and we are looking at the usage. We are looking at the gallons that are...or wastewater that is produced.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Well, my main concern are for the...the residents who actually live there, and not so much the people who come and go. So, that's the reason why. So, you...you're saying 30 percent, so that's, what, 180 people that...that live--are from Maui and live there?

MR. VUORI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's...yeah, I guess so. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Thank you. Member Kama, then Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So you're talking about counting units, toilets, and those kinds of things, and we're trying to talk about people who actually live here on Maui. So, the number that Chair Lee was asking you about, the 30 percent of your 200 *[sic]*, so 180 people actually live here full-time and the other 320...or 420 do not live here...and that's the idea, is that we're subsidizing 420 people who probably don't live here, who probably are renting out their units to be a B&B or an STR, and we're still having to subsidize this. So, I think that's the issue, as I understand it.

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MR. VUORI: Yeah, I understand. I'm not sure of how valid a concern it is. The bottom line is --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: You can't tell me if my concern is valid or not. If I believe it is, it is. I mean...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . . *(laughing)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But thank you, Chair. Thank you.

MR. VUORI: Yeah, the waste still goes into the ocean. It destroys the ocean.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It did, but you all were there, and you did it. So, thank you, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. VUORI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else? Member Paltin has another question for you, Tapani. Member Paltin.

MR. VUORI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Vuori.

MR. VUORI: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering, you know, like you said...clarifying that at the time when the injection wells were put in, it was the newest technology allowed by the State, is what you said? Or I mean, it was...it was --

MR. VUORI: Most likely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- permitted by the State.

MR. VUORI: It was the general technology available at that point, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the same thing happened, I guess, you know, to us in Lāhainā?

MR. VUORI: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, you know, in Lāhainā, we went to the Supreme Court. I'm not real familiar with the legal jargon and whatnot, but ultimately, I think

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we got fined and we have to fix it. And we're having supplemental transfer from the not users of the sewer. So, usually, everyone that uses the sewer pays all the things, but the taxpayers are stepping in and--because we decided to fight our own people, I guess.

MR. VUORI: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, is...this is a similar thing, where you were said--told that this was okay, and then it turns out science and time shows that it's not. And so, it's a similar thing, in which you're asking others who aren't on the system to come to the aid for the protection of the environment, which residents also use for recreation, as well as our marine life--whales, which are a protected species; green sea turtles; and so on and so forth. Is that a correct analogy, that...

MR. VUORI: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much --

MR. VUORI: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Tapani, for --

MR. VUORI: Appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you very much. I...I just want--wait, one...one second. So, on the SRF loans, the State revolving loan funds, just kind of information. And I'll ask the Department to clarify this, but those are usually for County-owned properties. So, if it was going to be used on your land, it's not eligible for those funds.

MR. VUORI: We believe that the Maui [sic] was going to utilize it in another project that they deemed high-priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What--no, no, no.

MR. VUORI: The Maui County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You...even if you thought you had the State revolving loan funds, I think at that time, if you were going to use it for your balaya (*phonetic*), wherever your land was, it wouldn't be eligible unless we owned the property, we owned the land.

MR. VUORI: I believe there was an ability to do that. Dave may be able to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. VUORI: Was that correct, Dave?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I will...I will --

MR. VUORI: Nonprofits?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I will clarify that --

MR. VUORI: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- because I think that's...you cannot give it to private citizens or a private community, it has to be used by a government-owned property. So, just that clarification.

MR. VUORI: Yeah. Thank you for that, and thank you for the opportunity. Really, I don't want to be disrespectful or anything, but the option is if you don't do anything, nothing has happened so far. What will change? What is our solution going to be as a community?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. VUORI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right, next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Jimmy Kincaid, to be followed by Nicole from Circular Hawai'i.

MR. KINCAID: Well, I--it's near afternoon. Good afternoon. My name's Jimmy Kincaid, I live in Paukukalo Hawaiian Homes, I'm a Kānaka Maoli, and I've lived here since '91. I built my home there in Paukukalo. So, you know, let me just start this with good day, Chair, and good afternoon, Councilmembers. Thank you for your time. So, I live here, I surf the bay, I surf Freight Trains, I paddle that area. I love that area. That bay is crying for help. So, how can...how can we think outside the box to like manage that beautiful resource there, to get it back to its pristine environment--the reef, the water--and to make it livable, sustainable for the future generations, you know? And...you know, and I'm listening to Dave's presentation, along with Tapani's presentation, and...and...and...and the group, this--the Mā'alaea Recreational Wastewater Reclamation System, you know, I support that, their...their effort. So, you know, I'm hearing a lot of things, so the...one of the things that just came up recently was how many people live in that area? And I kind of did the math. It was 653 units times four people per unit. You have about 2,500 people that live in that area. So, in addition to that 2,500 people using that wastewater system, there's al...there's also the people that use the bay, the harbor, the Trilogy, the boats that come in and out. All of that is added on top of that. So, it's...it--the system is really being taxed, all of that's going into the...the existing system that's in use, the injection wells, and so we need to really try to get off of that system. I'm here as a kūpuna, I'm here as a local resident, and I--my concerns are trying to clean up the bay. If there's anything that you guys can help us manage that, you know, think outside the box, bring a solution to the table. These

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people have something that they're bringing to the table, and I am supportive of this Mā'alaea Recreation Wastewater Reclamation System. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. KINCAID: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have any questions for --

MR. KINCAID: Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the testifier? Seeing none.

MR. KINCAID: All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Nicole from Circular Hawai'i, to be followed by James Langford.

MS. HUGUENIN: Aloha. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. HUGUENIN: Okay. Well, most of you know me from Maui Rapid Response, and--however, today, I'm calling in for one of my side projects when I'm not busy with Maui Rapid Response, and that is with an organization called Circular Hawai'i. We have received a grant from the DEM department for a few years, and last year, that grant was for \$50,000 to assess and...assess the issue of styles on...on the island, worldwide, and now to--I'm--the...the *(audio interference)* our sheets that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, one moment. You know, you're breaking up.

MS. HUGUENIN: -- worldwide, it would take us --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excuse me.

MS. HUGUENIN: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hey, Nicole, we--you're breaking up. We can't understand a full sentence.

MS. HUGUENIN: Let's see if that's better. Okay, I think it would be better if I--let me go to a better spot. Is that better?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now it's better.

MS. HUGUENIN: Is that better?



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. HUGUENIN: Okay. Oh wait, I need to get my notes so I don't ramble. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, worldwide, the...the fast-fashion issue is--constitutes a large portion of our landfills. I believe Maui County hasn't updated--like done a study to...to figure that out, but from the last study that was done, textiles were 4 percent of the landfill. We basically have been running a study...it's more like a program, to really see what that means. Because when you go to our island's thrift stores, which are mostly run by kūpuna--like for example, Secondhand Heaven has two--one full basement and one full room packed to the ceiling with clothes. And then after the fire, we...Maui Rapid Response actually tried to keep count, and at one point, there were 30 containers filled with clothes. We were able to help direct a lot of those and send some back. We...we currently, though, are keeping a few just because putting even more clothes into our...our areas would overflow all of our thrift stores. So, we convened this...this--what we call the clove...clothing collective. And I'm going to give you--in a...in a linear economy, the data points would be poundage of what we've...what we've done in the past year. In the last two weeks alone--we've been doing this since August of this year--in the last two weeks alone, we worked with three of the island's thrift stores to take 64 bags of clothes that they could not sell, and were going to go into the trash, that equated to about 646 pounds of clothes, and . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . then we...we redistributed them to the community, we also redistributed them to entrepreneurs. And I...I have...I'll email all these data...all this data for us, but the...the thing with us is we're not actually trying to create a linear economy, we're actually exploring, with a hui of the thrift stores, of entrepreneurs, of nonprofits, a circular economy with many people in it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nicole?

MS. HUGUENIN: And so, we've helped entrepreneurs make more money --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nicole, the three minutes and extra time is over.

MS. HUGUENIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I have a question --

MS. HUGUENIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for you. What is the name of your organization? I looked in the budget, I don't see it.

MS. HUGUENIN: Right. So, we are...we are fiscally sponsored by Grants Central Station, so that's where you would see it. I believe it's a \$50,000 grant to Grants Central Station, and the project name is Circular Hawai'i Clothing Collective.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Members, anybody --

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MS. HUGUENIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- have any questions? Seeing none. Thank you. Yeah, could you email us the information you would like to share?

MS. HUGUENIN: I will, I'll email you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. HUGUENIN: Absolutely.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. HUGUENIN: Yeah, thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is James Langford, to be followed by Carrie Demott.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: James Langford?

MR. LANGFORD: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'll ask.

MR. LANGFORD: Hello? Aloha?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. LANGFORD: You there?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. LANGFORD: Are you able to hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yes, we can hear you.

MR. LANGFORD: Oh, wonderful. Well, it was beautiful to see you...it was beautiful to see you all last night. I really want to compliment you all for the work that you're doing, the endurance that it requires to be able to be open to the people, and really listen sincerely. I...I want to take some time to give you all some aloha for that work that you're doing. It's exceptional. I also want to testify specifically--and I was able to prepare a budget and in reference to bill...for all the bills today. I have all the bills laid out. I was able to save \$100 million, and I would like to schedule a time to be able to present said budgets in order to help you folks mitigate the budgeting work that you need to do. I've developed an exceptional calculator software management system for municipalities, and it seems to be pretty efficient in delivering the needs from the perspective of the community value

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per person, and the impacts of the community. So, thank you. I...I just need to know how I would be able to come in and show you a pitch deck, and...and help you...and provide this calculator I have so it can make your lives easier serving the community, frankly. So, I love you all. Thank you so much for allowing me to share, and to be an expert witness on anything that you folks are working on. I would love for you all to reach out and utilize, you know, the--post-wildfire, my autism kicked in, and this is...this is literally my trauma response to the wildfires, and it's a fascinating, long journey. I haven't stopped working, and it's--I finally am now coming into some...some peace, and some aloha, and some what I would call very humble wellness. And so, it's time for me to share--you know, I've...Council Chair, you know, I've...I've served your own family educationally, I'm...I've been in the community doing the hard work for 30-some years. And I...I usually keep my mouth shut and just get it done, but right now, there's a time that we need in order to get this...those grants, the CDBG grant. And I have the means to get that \$2 billion and more, and I wrote it in software, and I've already been speaking to the people that are auditors for those drafts. So, I'd like to sincerely provide myself as a resource because you'll get the grants if I'm working on it, I think. And I have sent Wilmont Kahaiali'i the recommendation letter from the number . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . one USDA auditing service, which happens to be my friend John Saunders *(phonetic)* from college, the football captain the year I played...so we have a very long professional and personal relationship that's 17 years old. So, thank you so very much. Please...please reach out and allow me to reach out to you and...and connect you to this money and...and . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. LANGFORD: I'm available for questions. Thank you, James RCS Langford.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for Mr. Langford? Seeing none. Thank you very much. How many more testifiers --

MR. LANGFORD: God bless you all. I love you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How many more--thank you. How many more testifiers you have, just two? Okay. We'll finish this off, and then we'll take a lunch break. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Carrie Demott, to be followed by Kai Nishiki.

MS. DEMOTT: Aloha. I'm trying to get my camera on. Okay, I'm not sure if you guys can see me or hear me. I'm trying to turn my camera on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you, but we can't see you.

MS. DEMOTT: Okay. Well, I'm sorry that you can't see me. Mahalo, and thank you for allowing me to...to take a moment. I hopped in here to be able to offer some input on the \$3.5 million request for the Fiscal Year 2026 Affordable Housing Fund Plan requested by Na Hale O Maui to build seven affordable houses for home ownership in perpetuity for Maui

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County residents. Our program has been working since 2006, and we have 50 properties that we currently manage, that we have homeowners who have been benefiting from them. Our goal is to build seven new four-bedroom, two...two-and-a-half-bath, single-family homes in the Fairway of Maui Lanis [sic]. We are shovel-ready, we have plans that are--or--are fast-tracked to go through permitting, and we are able to get these homes started before the fall. So, we really humbly and request that you pass the funds for the projects that have been approved by the Affordable Housing Department [sic], and I wanted to offer up myself for some questions, if you had them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Members, anybody have questions? Okay. So I have a question for you. I'm looking at the Affordable Housing Fund for Na Hale O Maui--is that what you're saying, there's...there's funding in there for Na Hale O Maui for 3.5?

MS. DEMOTT: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see. It says housing to Land Enterprise of Maui, DBA Na Hale O Maui. Excuse me.

MS. DEMOTT: Correct, yes. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody have questions? Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MS. DEMOTT: Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Kai Nishiki, to be followed by Tom Croly, and that's currently our last testifier signed up.

MS. NISHIKI: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers. I am testifying regarding the Mā'ala'ala Wastewater proposal, and I am testifying in support of the Mā'ala'ala Village Association's critical efforts to eliminate injection wells that continue to degrade our nearshore waters and reef ecosystem. Their leadership in seeking a long-term solution through a new wastewater treatment facility is commendable, and deserves our full recognition. However, there is a parallel crisis that must be addressed with equal urgency. The shoreline condominiums in Mā'ala'ala are built on an eroding coastline fronted by sea walls that have blocked public access and cause further coastal degradation. We must not repeat the mistakes of the past by investing millions in new infrastructure without addressing the underlying land-use conflicts. The County is being asked to contribute \$12 million in taxpayer funds towards the construction, 1.2 million in FY '26 and the remainder in FY '27. This is a significant public investment, and must be tied to clear, enforceable commitments that advance our long-term climate adaptation and coastal resilience. I am urging the Council, if they choose to fund this, to make it a conditional funding. And there's like a lot of...a lot of questions relating to how the condominiums--which are primarily vacation rentals, how they are--whether or not they are required to connect to the new facility. And so, there must be legally-binding contracts before County funds are even considered, especially regarding

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the infrastructure to transmit the wastewater to the facility and decommissioning their existing cesspools. The ownership could always decide they don't even want to hook up to this new facility if there aren't contracts in place. And they must commit to adaptation pathways. They are, like I said, on a...on a coastline that will be completely impacted by sea-level rise. And so, I am suggesting a working group be convened prior to finalizing the details, and they should also commit to no further shoreline armoring. I just feel like we can't allow public funds to underwrite a bailout for oceanfront vacation rentals and failing high-risk buildings while the rest of the community bears this cost. This is our chance to turn a climate threat into a model for strategic relocation and shoreline restoration. Let's use this opportunity to catalyze transformative change, to restore our beaches, protect public access, and demonstrate that Maui County leads with courage, foresight, and environmental responsibility. And I just want to call attention . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can complete.

MS. NISHIKI: Do I have 30 seconds?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, you do.

MS. NISHIKI: Okay. Thank you. Call attention to please look at the NOAA grant, to Sea Grant, that was to purchase the 400 acres currently owned by Mahi Pono in that area, and what other commitments and...and priorities that the Council might want to make in conditioning any use of public funding for this sort of proposal. Mahalo. . . *(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for...yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Nishiki. Mahalo for your testimony. The conditions that you mentioned, would...would you be able to send them in writing?

MS. NISHIKI: Yes. I can do that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. And then those proposed conditions, were you able to share them with the Mā'alaea Village Association or the County, and get any feedback?

MS. NISHIKI: So, I had met with Tapani and the Mā'alaea...and a representative from the Mā'alaea group in--over the past couple of weeks, and we were making plans to discuss the...the conditions and a path moving forward, but we haven't had an opportunity to circle back on that. So, definitely look forward to that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Nishiki. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any other questions for Ms. Nishiki? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MS. NISHIKI: Okay. Thank you. Have a great day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Tom Croly, and this is currently the last testifier signed up.

MR. CROLY: Aloha, Councilmembers. Tom Croly, testifying on my own behalf. I'll try to keep you as...as minimal from...from your lunch break as possible. First, I want to thank *Akakū* for covering live all of your regional meetings. I've enjoyed sitting back in my leisure chair and...and listening to all the testimonies, as I know you guys have, and certainly learned a lot from...from the needs of...of...of the--that were expressed by...by folks. Give those guys in Moloka'i, the...the...the wrestlers, the money they want to travel.

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

MR. CROLY: That...that one touched my heart, it really did.

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

MR. CROLY: Second, I...I want to let you know that I am a board member of Na Hale O Maui, and I'm just backing up the testimony that...that you just heard. I've already looked at the lots that we have in Maui Lani, and...and the...and...and the proposal to build the homes, and it's really a great project, and I just can't wait to get that done. We...we will have homes by this time next year that people can move into if...if this thing's funded, and I'll make sure, as a board member, that that happens. Third--and you've heard from me before, and you'll heard...hear from me again on this--us B&B owners who--I want to make sure that that...that Councilmember Kama understands, every B&B owner, the--that...that home is the home of a resident. It is in no way, shape, or form a short-term rental. I heard you equate them today, and...and they should not be equated. So, those of us who are residents living in our homes should be treated like other residents living in our homes. I want to point out very quickly that...that what's been proposed is another increase for me of roughly \$1,000. That's \$3,500 in increases to my taxation over the last four years, and it's a doubling of my taxation. If I had been taxed as a resident, my taxation during the same period would have gone up 33 percent. So, it's...it's three times what...what I would be paying as a...as a resident, and that's just not fair. Today, being April 15th, I just did my taxes yesterday, so I have...I have some numbers to share with you, if you can digest these numbers real quickly. I paid \$24,000 last year in GET and TAT. 4,770 of those dollars went directly to Maui County. That was the...the Maui TAT and...and the half-a-percent GET. I paid \$7,666 in State taxes to the State of Hawai'i. I paid \$15,550...43 to the Federal Government, and you guys are asking me to pay another \$7,618, which is a \$5,186 increase because of my B&B. In total, that comes to \$54,828, which is 51 percent of my taxable income. So,

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just to understand how, as a resident . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we are...we are paying our fair share. We're paying more than our fair share. You're...you're...you're really taxes...taxing us out of existence by hitting us so hard with these property taxes. Nothing you can do about the State income tax and the...and the Federal income tax, but there is something you can do to make the property taxes that the resident owner-occupied bed and breakfasts pay. So, please give us that consideration when...when the time comes to...to set what the rates are for this year. Thank you for the...the opportunity to testify, and I'm...I'm there with you every step of the way. . . *(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Croly.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Croly. I just want to say thank you for that clarification. I appreciate it, thank you.

MR. CROLY: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, anybody else? See no...no other questions. Thank you, Mr. Croly. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Cheryl King. Cheryl, you are un...yeah, you are muted. Oh, there you go.

MS. KING: Got it.

MS. MACDONALD: You got it.

MS. KING: Sorry. . . *(laughing)*. . . Figured it out. Aloha, guys. Thank you for being here, of course. It's been an interesting morning for you all. My name is Cheryl King, and I am testifying today on behalf of the grant funding we received for the Hawai'i Association for Marine Education and Research, HAMER for short, under the County OED EP&S Recycling Grants and Green Grants programs. So, since 2022, we've been partially funded by this awesome program for our activities focused on coastal cleanups of green debris, also known as plastic pollution. This trash washes ashore all over the Pacific Ocean, and unfortunately, from right here in Maui County, so it's been a responsibility to clean it up. So, as part of the SHARKastics project, we also conduct nearshore coral reef cleanups of derelict fishing gear and other trash on Maui that is very dangerous for our native wildlife and the beachgoers alike. So, no one wants to go to a dirty beach, so beautifying our island is so important for us and our visitors. So, keeping our coral reefs healthy is critical to the survival of one of the native species I've been spending the last 25 years studying here, the critically-endangered Hawaiian monk seals.

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known as honu'ea, so--or just 'ea, depending on who you ask. For two years now, we've received grant funding to help support my Statewide photo identification project that tracks individual sea turtles using photographs submitted by citizen scientists and our team. So, these turtles have unique facial and flipper scale patterns that allow me to identify each individual, and we've known some of the turtles in my catalog for nearly a quarter of a century already. So, with only about 409 hawksbills in the catalog--because they're so rare compared to the green sea turtle, or honu--each one is crucial to the population. So, the more we learn about them, the more we can help protect them. So, I know that so many people in conservation are from mauka to makai really rely on this funding from the County, and everybody wants money right now, I know . . . *(laughing)*. . . and increasing it--the budget for the Recycling Division would really be helpful to so many things, especially during these particularly stressful times when nature needs all the help it can get. And helping the local community, especially inspiring the younger generation to do something here to help our island's sustainability, is super important because there's a lot of lack of morale right now with the...the keiki . . . *(laughing)*. . . with what's going on in the world. So, mahalo for listening and helping support the Recycling Division's budget increase to help our wildlife and . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Maui. And I think you're going to ask me a question about the funding, so I'll throw that in. We've...since 2022, depending on which budget, we've received 17,000 or up to 29,000 per year for these projects. Thank you so much, everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So you said --

MS. KING: Have a wonderful day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How much did...how much are...how much did you receive, and how much are you asking for in this current '26 budget? Or maybe just how much are you asking for --

MS. KING: Oh, I hadn't --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- '25 first?

MS. KING: -- applied.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what?

MS. KING: I haven't applied yet for this year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. KING: Currently, I have 29...29,000 in the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, and --

MS. KING: -- the Green Grants recycling program.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: The name of your association again? Hawai'i Association --

MS. KING: It's kind of long. Hawai'i Association for Marine Education and Research.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Marine Education. Okay. And 29,000 --

MS. KING: And ...*(inaudible)*... SHARKastics project and my Hawaiian Hawksbill Conservation project under those. It's complicated.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...and you got that through Office of Economic Development, and not...not Environmental Management? Just clarifying...clarifying it. Oh, what happened to her? Oh, there you are. Did you hear me? You got your grant through the Office of Economic Development did you say, or is it through EP&S?

MS. KING: Sorry, I was frozen. Apologies. It's through EP&S and the Green Grants and Recycling Division depending on --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. KING: -- which year it's been.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. KING: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members have any questions? Seeing none. Okay. Thank you.

MS. KING: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, I see someone approaching the podium.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. LAW: Jasee Law, Kula Uka, Waiakoa Ahupua'a. Hawaiian word of the day, ka papa kumumana'o, agenda. Thank you, all, and I see the time. I get three minutes though, so be patient. Mahalo for working for the County and Queen Lili'uokalani. Thank you for spending the morning with us, limahana. And oki, Chair Lee. Good to see you. I hope you don't have a black foot and you're walking up the stairs again really soon. I know you're in favor of recycling, and you're an expert on the rules of the Council, especially the public testimony part, Sunshine Law. I had a cardboard box about this big to show and tell, but it's hard to show and tell without the show part, so I'll just tell you. The Council Ambassador took it away, saying I wasn't allowed, so I appreciate the first testifier, Vincent Mina, because he hid his cardboard. He...he got it all chopped up good, like I had just a big, solid piece, so I really appreciate him. And

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he pulls the same amount of cardboard out of the bag, so I'm wondering how come he's allowed to take cardboard in the Council Chambers and I'm not. So, I object to special treatment some of the members of the public get in this Committee. Now, Cecile Powell, I heard a lot of praise for her, and I thank her, and Mr. Agawa, and the other limahana for working for the County, but I've been asking for a cardboard dumpster since Tamara Farnsworth was working here. Next, yesterday, the Department of the Transportation was here, and at the bus transit center is several black trash cans, and several blue recycle cans, and the people who get paid to walk around with blue shirts that say security are giving me a hard time for reaching in the black can and transferring the HI-5 to the blue cans. Finally, I would ask you all to fund all grant requests previously at this meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, that was currently everyone who is signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, with your permission, I'd like to close public testimony and receive any written testimony into our records.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I'm going to ask Member Cook if you want to ask one question, and then we will break for lunch and come back at...1:30? Or whatever you all want to do. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: One question.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Make it a good one, though.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: . . .*(laughing)*. . . What are you having for lunch?

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's not on the agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That don't qualify.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The update on the--running the R-1 water north, if it's...is that a work in progress?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Cook. Yes, it is a work in progress. We do have a scope of work, I believe, and we also have a plan to get some funding to a consultant who is currently doing work in Kihei. They have some existing data, so we feel that that's the most fiscally-efficient way to go, is amend their contract. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's it? All right. So, thank you very much, Department, for sitting with us, and I will be breaking for lunch. Do you want to come back at 1:30? 1:30? One hour? Okay. This meeting is now in recess until 1:30 for lunch. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:** 12:27 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 1:37 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay, welcome back to the Budget, Finance--excuse me--Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:37, and we are continuing with our discussion with the Department of Environmental Management. Members, we had one question from Member Cook, and then took this lunch recess. I want to know if you would like to break up the discussion so we can talk about Wastewater two rounds, and then take it program-by-program, or you...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you guys fine with that? Yes, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't have any questions on wastewater, so I'll be easy.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay, we'll start with...we'll try this, okay? I remember I tried this last year, but it got everybody so passionate about this subject, so it got kind of mushy, you know, it kind of went all over the place. And once we start talking about Cecile Powers [*sic*], we're going to get stuck on EP&S, so...just kidding, Cecile. I'm going

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to start off with Wastewater. I'm going to do two rounds, start off with--okay, who's here? Who's here? Member Sinenci, Member Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, then me.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And U'u-Hodgins will be joining us.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. No...no questions for Wastewater.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member Kama. Oh. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Question for the Director Agawa. Hi, Shayne. Do you have anything in your budget, Wastewater, that can be paid with CDBG-DR funds?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. AGAWA: Thank...thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. So, the answer is yes, could be paid, mainly like CIP projects. However, as everyone knows, it needs to qualify for the CDBG-DR funds, and that is a funding of last resort. So, we are working to acquire additional external funding, and if at that point we can't...or aren't able to, then we can look at CDBG-DR funding. But the answer is yes, we possibly could use that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, how much are you allocating for regular funds, the GR...General Funds or Sewer funds for Wastewater that could be eventually paid by DR funds? How much...how...what do those projects total up to?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have that answer, or is it budget --

MR. AGAWA: Chair, could we ask for that question in writing, and we can follow-up in writing as well?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Could --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You got that?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, can we have the Staff ask those--send those questions, please?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. That's it for me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's it? Okay, woah. Member Paltin is not here. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, thank you, Director Agawa and his wonderful team, for joining us today. I want to say that Director Agawa is my favorite Director --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- and it has nothing to do with his charming personality. It might rival mine, but --

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- I just want to say thank you for not making me do a UIPA request when I ask for your grants.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And that's...I...I got other questions on the grants, so I'm going to wait that turn. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wow, okay. So, that was a compliment and no question? Member --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Here she comes running in, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have another question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay, you do? Sorry about that, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Director Agawa, how involved are you with the Mā'alaea project?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. So, we've been in discussion with Mā'alaea Village Association for at least several years now, talking about this project, finding out ways that we could support. You know, we've offered various types of support. At one point, we were looking at possibly helping them with Community Facilities District. To my understanding, they were not interested in that. We also said that the Waikapu treatment facility that we're currently designing and hopefully be in operation in 2029, is designed to service their area...however, timing was an issue for them. They wanted to move quicker than wait for that facility to come online. So, what we offered was in the future, when that facility does come online, the County Waikapu facility, that we could potentially turn their regional privately-run facility into a pump station, and then we could pump the sewer to our new facility. And the talk was that their regional facility could be used for maybe another district that would require that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director, are you...are we subject to fines right now...the County or them, either one or both?

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MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. As--I am not aware of any fines that we are subject to right now.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, even with the injection wells and the leakage into the ocean, we're--no one's being fined for that?

MR. AGAWA: To my knowledge, no.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, interesting. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin is not here, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Sorry, I was expecting another minute or three with Member Johnson, and --

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I was eagerly awaiting to hear what he was asking for with all that flattery.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I guess we're going to find out in decisions week, huh?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Chair Lee asked some of the questions that I had, and to clarify, when Mr. Vuori was testifying, and I asked him questions, and I asked about the CFD, he said they didn't have a serious conversation about it, but you were saying that they did not want to do it. So, which is it?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member...Member Rawlins-Fernandez. What I can remember was that the County offered to support them in that venture, and they were not interested in going the route of a CFD at that time. Now, it may change...may have changed, but I can't speak for MVA.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. And aloha, Director, Deputy, and team. I figure Member Johnson gave enough aloha for all of us combined. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay, let's see...what other questions I had...okay. So, I'm going to stick to the Mā'alaea project. So, are--did you, or will you be submitting to us more details of the cost of the project?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, for that question. So, this is a community-run project, it's not a County-run project, so we would assume that the team that Mr. Vuori is part of would be the one furnishing those numbers.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: To you or to us? And now...in this session, like during budget session before decisions week on Monday?

MR. AGAWA: As far as--oh, sorry.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. I do have a breakdown of this--the 1.25 for this fiscal year that I can tra...transmit over to the Committee, and will do that later today.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. And then I know in the CIP section of the program budget, it has the next fiscal year's projected amount, and that's also going to be a grant?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Because this is a grant that is not included in the CIPs, so no funding has been included for next fiscal year in any of our estimates so far. So, that would be...if we agree to support next fiscal year, it would be part of the Mayor's proposed budget next fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification. Okay, let me see if I have any more...okay. And then when you, Budget Director, submit the details of the 1.25, will you also submit the details of the 1 million EPA, the match of 20 percent, and any other financial details regarding that project to us?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Right now, I only have the budget breakdown . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . of the 1.25, but if you submit the request in writing, I can work with the MVA to get you as much information as possible.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. You got that? Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. Wow, that was really fast for round one, so now I have my turn. I want to ask you about the Kahului wastewater and the aeration basin, and I want to make sure that we're covered. I think it was...it was shared in Committee--not here, but that it...it's something that's important, and I think that was also expressed by Managing Director at the...at a Legislature meeting that I attended, talking about the needs for, you know, Maui of which that was mentioned. So, can you give me a schedule, just to make sure that we...we have something in this budget if we need to?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair Sugimura. So, as far as I know, we are still on schedule for that fourth aeration basin. We still need to figure out funding along the way...however, we have been in discussion with Mayor's Office. There's various types of funding that we need to look at, right? SRF, CDBG-DR, that type of thing. GET is a possible one.

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But we are on schedule, we are in preliminary design, and I believe we are on schedule to have that operational in 2028.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And the aeration basin is--can you explain? It's--I say in my layman's term, is it's expand use until we get the Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility built because of all the residents that use it, or businesses that use it?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Chair Sugimura. So, the fourth aeration basin is not to increase capacity, per se, at the treatment facility, but what it does is, it allows redundancy. We have three aeration basins in use. We do have to maintain them every so often, so the fourth one allows us to work on one of the basins and still be at operational --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. AGAWA: -- capacity, but it allows us to function up to the operational capacity of the treatment facility.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, it's going to keep us current with uses. And...and you're fine that it's not in this budget, but it will be taken cared [sic] of through those funding sources?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Yeah, we...we are optimistic on acquiring those funding sources...but they are not guaranteed, as we all know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're applying for SRF when? Now, or next year? Or...or is it GET?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. So, it is on the request for SRF funding, but we haven't been allotted anything as of yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much for that. Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility, any updates you want us to know about? It's in the budget for General Funds for 10.5 million, and will you be...will you be bonding that, or are you going to use cash? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. So, the 10.5 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's GET, yeah?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, GET funding...the 10.5 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: My mistake. Okay, next...next--do we need another round for Wastewater? Anyone? Okay, I --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Can you hear me? I'm online, but I'm just driving.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I see. So, just say whenever you would like to have a question. Oh, do you have anything for Wastewater, Nohe U‘u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I do. Do--are we breaking them up? I'm sorry, I have...I was having issues joining online on my phone earlier, so I'm not too sure if we're breaking them out into --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- sections like we did last year. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so we're going to take--we're doing Wastewater now, and next we'll do Solid Waste.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Can I ask a question? It's probably similar to what everybody was asking. Oh, by the way, I'm in a car by myself. In about nine-ish minutes, I will have a minor with me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. We heard a lot of testimony from the Mā‘alaea community as--we everybody was discussing. And Director, we spoke about it a little bit during our lunch recess, but what's your opinion on the precedent that this is setting? As you know, a lot of Upcountry and a lot of elsewhere, we are also on cesspools, and while we might not be close to a body of water that shows the obvious damage that cesspools can do, what are we going to do for all the other local residents that are on cesspools if this is what we're going to do now, and what kind of precedent do you think this is setting?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member U‘u-Hodgins. That is a great question, and our concern is that we are setting precedence to help fund these regional concerns about wastewater. So, once we set a precedence, we need to be prepared, in the future budgets, to address other regions as well.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you for that answer. In a...in a somewhat of a selfish way, this benefits Makawao, and Pukalani, and Hāli‘imaile, and all of our districts, but it is...it's a big cost that we are going to have to be prepared for, if this is what we do. While 1.25 million is somewhat small-ish right now, the precedent that

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we're setting is going to be quite expensive. But I think that's all I had for Wastewater, Chair. I might have some other questions as we go down the line, and then I'll be joining via computer from my parents' house next to the community center in a little bit. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right. Member Paltin is back.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I just wanted to introduce our visiting Councilmember from L.A. Her district also suffered tragedy. Councilmember Traci Park, and Planning Director Craig Bullock in the back with Josiah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, welcome. Nice to see you. Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I still got four minutes, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. You actually now got two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, please start.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, there's a 9 percent increase in sewer fund. And before we ask that of our ratepayers, I was wondering if you could fill us in on what's being done to collect the restitution from the former director. I believe we're owed 1.9 million before we start asking our ratepayers to pay more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who can answer that question, is that a Corp. Counsel question?

MR. AGAWA: Chair, yeah. I would like to defer that to Corp. Counsel, if possible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Kristina Toshikiyo? There. Okay, it popped up. Did you hear the question?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: I did, Chair. Thank you. But I don't know the answer. That's something we'd have to look into, and I'd have to check with the Corporation Counsel on...on any kind of status.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, we can...we can put that in writing. The next thing, I'm on page 14 of 23 of the answers, and it looks like to date--I know CIP, you have until December, but it looks like maybe close to 10 percent of 48 million in Wastewater Funds has been encumbered to date. And so, like, you know, we're...we're raising fees. I'm...I'm happy to support all these CIPs that we desperately need, but if we're not able to do it in a fiscal year or 18 months, then it feels like we're raising rates on our taxpayers at the worst time, when we're not even actually able to do the projects. And so, I was wondering if you could tell me how many employees does it take to get a CIP moving to

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where you can encumber the funds, and if we have enough peop...warm bodies in those positions? Because we're not even doing--like we had a much smaller CIP schedule last fiscal year, and the amount of progress we've made in like say nine months, or--I don't know, public math, whatever--it doesn't look like we're going to be able to...this...this fiscal year's projects is so much more, and like it...it almost looks like we've abandoned some things based on like the integrated sol...or am I not supposed to talk about integrated solid waste management?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, that's not this time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, just wastewater stuff?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're talking about wastewater.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, Nāpili 1 Force Main Replacement, 3.7 million. Was that State Revolving Fund? And it's in there again with a different funding source. I...I'm a little confused on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All...all of these, there's only six of the ...*(timer sounds)*... however many projects seem to have any movement on it. So, like it kind of makes me feel like maybe six to ten projects in any given 18-month cycle is your capacity with your warm bodies in...so, I mean, why would we put more projects with more money that we're collecting from our ratepayers that aren't going to be able to be expended? I...I...I'm not questioning that they're all important and need to be done. I love that to be done, but physically, realistically, if it's not possible, I don't want to take people's money, and then not be able to expend it in the allotted time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Department, do you have a comment? Oh, sorry.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So, I'll answer generally, and then I'll defer to Eric Nakagawa, our Wastewater Division Chief, to...to explain a little bit more. So, in general, when we come up with our CIP project list from year-to-year, we anticipate the number of resources that we have, and we don't allocate any more ...*(inaudible)*... than what they could handle. For whatever different reasons, sometimes projects do get delayed and we're not able to expend all of the money, but I'll defer to Eric to answer more on your question.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Hello? Okay. Yeah, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Thank you, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Anytime.

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MR. NAKAGAWA: So, in general, I think we--like for Wastewater, I think your question maybe is coming from a sense of your--how do I say it, like--so, every year, we plan all of our CIPs, right, and we expect to do them every year there. And like Director Agawa says, if some things come up like environmental permits, like that, and just permitting in general, that's just taking way longer now than that we inspected. So, we always put a study first year, a design next year, we break one year because we know there's permitting requirements, and then we go out to a construction in that fourth year. But the whole rate versus--I guess I look at it two different ways. I'm trying to answer your question, I guess, correctly, right? So, rates and then CIP, right, what we can do. So, for us, like I think the little differences here--I got to answer it a little different is only because we have GET money, right? I think that's where you guys are coming from, right? So...but in particular, like for your Nāpili Force Main Number 1, like we're already 95 percent complete, right? So--as far as design. So, it should be no problem. We're going to...we can build it in like probably as soon as the fiscal year starts, right? So, every one is a little different, and unfortunately, some years...yeah, I mean, you know, there's things we cannot control, which is pretty much always a problem. You're going to hear it from either my division...no longer department, so . . . *(laughing)*. . . from other divisions that that's kind of like...that's kind of what's happening. As far as manpower, we realize that we do have this manpower shortage, but it is--for just kind of more of a broader sense, like we are just project managing, we're not the ones doing the actual plans and specs. So, that just requires us to kind of push...or manage more consultants who actually do the job...do all the work for us, right? And so, as--there is a little bit--if you saw, I think one of your guys' questions came in, and it was about, hey, manpower shortage and that kind of stuff. So, there is a little bit less details that you...you know what I mean? Like if you have enough people, you take more care in the project like specifically. So, that part does get a little low, but the--as...as far as the schedule, the ones that really take the longest that we cannot foresee is always that permitting side. So...but to answer your question, like a lot of the projects--because I went through it before I came--like majority of them are ready, some are just supplemental to other years that we found out that we don't have enough money. And so, based on the essence, we're going to be more. And then there are like a few projects where you're saying, like, hey, it's going to be probably more towards that, you know, ending of that fiscal year kind of thing, and so...yeah. So, hopefully that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. NAKAGAWA: And then usually...I guess you got to look at it differently, right? So, whatever is Wastewater funds, if we're not using it, they...essentially, they'll just come back to us. and we just...that's just a lower rate for the next year anyway, right? So, that--because that only comes back to us, right? So, all of this GET money that we're getting really is just trying to keep the rate...whatever sewer rate increases at a minimum because it's helping us fund these different CIP projects, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess because I'm looking at the last year that we got the ACFR four *(phonetic)* and the adopted 2024 budget is...there's like about 17 percent less in the actual amount spent. And so, like that's what they call, I guess, Carryover/Savings, and they said we had 120 million Carryover/Savings. So, we're budgeting for this much,

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but we only spent like 83 percent of what we budgeted for. And...and, you know, that's great, we're not spending 120 percent of what we budgeted for, but it's hard to raise the rates on people when we're not spending the entirety of what we budgeted for, and we're getting an influx of GET money as well.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Yeah, Chair. So...so, that's...so what you're talking about, so that 9 million, there is a mixture of a little bit of CIP in there, but majority of that is just --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Salaries and wages?

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- me telling--no, it's operational, yeah?

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

MR. NAKAGAWA: ABC. So, it's me telling my guys, hey...essentially, what happened after Lāhainā, we lost revenues, right? So, we lost pretty much...I think it was like, I don't know, 2,000, you know, payers, right? So, that resulted in roughly 3 million short...revenue shortfall. So, actual expenditures, revenue, right? So, this is all projected stuff, estimate, right? So, now, knowing that, right, like I tell my guys, hey, make sure we spend--kind of like not do whatever, but just get enough done, and make it reliable so we don't spill. So, what that does is it...it--really, that only helps because that starts our starting figure, right? So, that starts...helps us to start with a lower rate increase. So, that only helps future years, but of course, at a risk of, hey, you know, if you bought everything new, everything would work new, right? So, the two kind of doesn't really go together, but it does, right? So, like CIP, I don't think there's any ca...so, cash CIP, if we couldn't do the projects, but--then it would help us, like you're saying. But really, cash CIP, we tend to use that because...only for design because design is immediate. So, you don't want to borrow money on something that's going to last . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . 20 years, you know what I mean?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, it--the two sometimes go together, but not really when--in that lens, kind of what you're saying. So, hopefully that kind of helps.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And WF is not cash, that's what, bond?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Wastewater fund would be cash, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Because...I mean...

MR. NAKAGAWA: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I see plenty WFs.

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MR. NAKAGAWA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . In the --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Fiscal Year '25.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Member Paltin, you got your question answered, you need it in writing?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess...I...I don't like the answer --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but I got it answered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because I see Chair Lee has her hand up. Okay. Thank you. Your buzzer went off.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yep.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I have a question for Eric. Hi, Eric. Now, you know, you started with the R-1 water several years ago in South Maui, and I...I'm sure that you made some progress by now, and you've found customers to deliver the R-1 water to. Do you participate with the Water Department in the savings of that? The savings of the diversion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. I...I know you like your answers short, so no.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You don't? You don't, even though you...even though that allows you to process less or more at your sewer treatment plant, it doesn't make any difference at all? Hmm. And are we...are we doing...are we still making progress in South Maui?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair. Yes, Chair Lee, we are. And, you know, I...we like Department of Water Supply. We all work with each other. So, Director Agawa is working with Director Stufflebean, and they're looking at future projects that they are going to start giving us cost shares, or funding for expansion of R-1 in Kihei.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Because I know a couple of years ago, you kind of ran into a wall when people declined the use of R-1. So, now it's better?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So we like quick answers. Oh, Member Cook, welcome, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My apology for being late. I had to get my truck. So, my question for Wastewater, for Mr. Nakagawa, I...I--is Pump Station Number 7 in Kihei, that's...I think at Kam II...Kam I? It's at Kam I, and it's going to be relocated across the street in the parking lot. Is that the first kind of managed retreat of one of the pump stations?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay. Yeah, Chair, yeah. Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Member Cook. Yeah, so--well, technically not because that Kihei-North Mauka system, that initiative was started for--because of kind of sea-level rise. And so, it's...there is a pump station in there also.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, technically, that's probably the first project, and then...so this would be kind of our second project that we're doing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, what's going to happen with that site after you move the pump station and whatnot? That's County Parks. Is the building going to be reused for anything, or what--is there a plan on that?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair, thanks. Yeah. So, my understanding is we're speaking to Parks and seeing--or what is that, life--I guess that's technically not Parks anymore, yeah, that's Fire, I guess, yeah...because lifeguards are Fire.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Lifeguards.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. So, they are...they'll let us know kind of what...what they want to do with it. So, I think --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I'm going to --

MR. NAKAGAWA: I don't know how long ago --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm going to cut you off --

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MR. NAKAGAWA: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- because I don't have much time, sorry. Are we...are we on schedule for that? It looks like FY '26. Are we doing for like...like you were saying, it takes planning, it takes permitting. Are we on track for that?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yes. My understanding, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then my next question, the...you're...are you working with the Lipoa development group? They were paying to upsize--you were--the County was paying to upsize the pipes that they were putting in running north through their development that was potentially going to be able to do the school. Is that...did that ever happen?

MR. NAKAGAWA: It doesn't ring a bell. Yeah, Chair. No, that...that doesn't ring a bell, but --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- you can put it in writing, and then I can work...work with Scott from Planning, and he can let me know if that's --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. We'll put it in writing.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That's all, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. The State of Hawai'i Cesspool Conversion Pilot Program, 1.2 million, what happened to that money? Because I think we had discussed the pilot program Upcountry starting--you know, giving all that 1.2 million to one contractor identifying a number of Park parcels Upcountry to convert their cesspool to septic, and it was supposed to start like around the time the fire happened.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I'll defer it to Eric.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, because I hope we...I hope we didn't lose that opportunity.



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MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair. Thank you, Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

MR. NAKAGAWA: I'm rusty. You see, I haven't come in a long time.

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

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

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, that money--what happened was that money essentially is still available, that's through the SRF, right? 1...I think it's a million something --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: When does it lapse?

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- every year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: When can we not use it anymore? Because I want us to use it.

MR. NAKAGAWA: It doesn't lapse, it's --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- it's...it's provided every year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

MR. NAKAGAWA: But I believe, with the...when we met and the change in Administration, the State opened up a \$5 million same program, but through the State. So, I believe...that I recall is basically we kind of told, hey, just go to the State--whoever was interested, go to the State, and then they can get the monies. And the...the...I think the difficulty was is, somebody had to spearhead that program, the vetting process, right? So, I don't know if you remember because I think I was still there a year --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I do.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Remember, we had to develop --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can I take it? Can it be used for Moloka'i?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, it can be used for any cesspool diversion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right, done. Okay --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- next questions.

MR. NAKAGAWA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Sewer rates. For the--you know, you said with the increase, the 9 percent increase, you estimate about additional \$5.7 million. And so, if it's a \$10 increase for a year, \$120, so there's 47,500 properties that are connected to the wastewater that we...that we charge for the residential monthly rates...monthly base charge from 41 to 51, yeah? No? What is it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair. So, as far as property, I think you're about right, like--but I think we only have like roughly 23,000 roughly accounts, actual accounts. And then the \$10 base charge is really for residential.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, what's the formula?

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, everybody else --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What's the formula?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it's...if it's \$10 per month . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . for the bill --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- right, and then \$120 for the year, and you're estimating 5.7 million --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for residential, what...what is that called? Or how do...how do you...how do you get the 5.7 million?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Oh, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I thought it was based on the monthly base charge fee, \$10.

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MR. NAKAGAWA: No. So...so, that's just part of it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it, okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for clarifying --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- because I know that there's the --

MR. NAKAGAWA: You still have commercial, you have --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You said there's other --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Right --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- government, yeah, everybody else.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For the wastewater, for all of those?

MR. NAKAGAWA: All --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, not just based on--so, there's 23,000-ish --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Accounts roughly, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- accounts. Okay. All right, I think...I think those were all the ones for Wastewater.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Done? You're done?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For Wastewater. Well, I mean, there's...there's another one. Okay. The last question then.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Because we are taking it by division, so --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah, this is Wastewater Operations Program --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Goal 3 on page 210 for Objection 1-2, the actuals are .9 and .6, and for FY '26, projecting 12. If you could please explain what leads you to believe...or to project 12 with .9 and .6 actuals.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair. Okay. I think this is...we always run into this problem every year, right? So, this is the safety and training thing, right? Yeah. So, essentially, we...I guess it's just the formula. Now it comes to your formula, right? So, if the...the goal was always developed, if at the end, you say each...per employee, right? So, we average around, I don't know, two--I think for the past five years, we averaged around 223 professional developments at each range for everyone in our...I guess in our division, but there's--not everybody makes it, right? Like basically whether they're sick, vacation, whatever the reasons are, right? And so, they'll just take whatever that refresher course is the next time it comes around. But that number that we get, that we ask everybody to give us, we always divide by 120...125, right? Because I have 125 in my division. So, whether it's a vacant position, whether--you know what I mean? So, it...it--when we report it, it just always comes out --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's how you can have an...less than a person?

MR. NAKAGAWA: A point-something--yeah.

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

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, that's what is...but it was just --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- .9 of a person?

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- handed down to me, so I just kind of roll with it. And if...if you guys are--want to just see how much professional development cost is, I can always list that. That's something different, right? It's just --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, I think it's...for some reason, maybe they off--hey, one person, they average 112 every year, right? Let's just put 12, but it's per person. So, when we calculate it, whoever writes it always divides by the number of people in our division. So...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The number of positions, not people?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Oh, technically, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Positions, yeah. 120, whatever.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

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MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's just weird to get a .9 session or .6 session of a...of a session. Okay. That was my last question. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Real quick for Director Agawa, you know, the State just EOed an extra 40-some acres to expand the Hāna Landfill. Can we potentially use that for a future wastewater treatment plant down the road, or would we have to--you know, for the cesspool conversions--or do we have to change some of the zoning of that property?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sinenci, for that question. So, the overall answer is we need to see the viability of that property, right? I couldn't say yes or no. There is a possibility, yes, but is it possible to have a wastewater treatment there? We would need to do more due diligence. I must be honest, and that would not be in the near future for us, that would be more of a long-term goal. But yeah, we could look into the viability of that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're done? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I kind of had a...it...it's not necessarily Wastewater, it's...you know how we love our vacancies. With the...the printout that they gave us in DEM-1, it's not super easy to say...see how many vacancies are in each section. Like it looks like, from what Personnel said, like they have 33 vacancies. I think I counted, in Personnel section, that they have 36 vacancies. From Personnel, it looks like Wastewater might have 20 vacancies just in the reclamation division, 16 in the...so, it's...it's difficult because the way the vacancies are listed, it's all jumbled up together in their answers, and there's no position IDs or like--you know. But then, if I look at what Personnel has listed, Personnel says 20 vacancies in Wastewater Reclamation. So, it's different information from different sources, which, you know, if there were position ID numbers and broken up by Wastewater, Solid Waste, EP&S, it would be easier to track.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Department, are--can you provide information in a way that's consistent with what Member Paltin is asking? That's what you're asking for, right?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So, I just got updated information from our Personnel section--and we can follow-up in writing--but EP&S has four vacant positions; Solid Waste has nine, but the disclaimer is three out of those nine will be filled within the next 45 days; and in Wastewater, we currently have 20 vacant

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positions--again, disclaimer, 5 out of those 20 positions will be filled within the next 60 days. But we can also . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . follow-up in writing. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That would be great. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good. Yeah, could you do that? All right. Anybody else have questions? Looks like we've done full another second round, and we're done. All right. Good job, then. We're going to switch --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, Chair, I have one quick question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Go ahead. Oh, you moved, yay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, yeah. Now...now I'm at my parents' house. I'm waiting for you guys to show up next door in a few hours.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: My question for the Wastewater Admin Program. So, I noticed your Mechanical Engineer V did not get the same special salary schedule increase for engineers. Does the mechanical engineers not qualify, is it only civil engineers, or do we need to increase that mechanical engineers? Because then Member Paltin is going to have to change her spiel when we have people come and testify.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: She's going to have to specify civil engineers if we're not doing a blanket increase for all engineers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Department. Do you understand the question?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I think we understand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: I'll defer to Eric.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, go ahead.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair. Yeah. Thank you, Member Hodgins. Yeah, just FYI, yeah, all engineers follow that same salary amendment or whatever that salary...yeah, the supplemental schedule. So, it may be that...just that --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- it's a vacant position right now.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, okay. It's...it's a Mechanical Engineer V listed on details 7-54. I do notice your...or electrical engineer and civil engineer. So, if you guys do fill that, then we should expect an increase for that position as well?

MR. NAKAGAWA: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thanks. That's all I have, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. You said one more round and we're done?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That was my questions for Wastewater, I have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- questions for Solid Waste and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and EP&S.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Are you...Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, okay. You're done?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then we're done --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had a...oh, you're --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- with Wastewater.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- not done yet?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, then we're --

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- done with Wastewater. We got to move on because we're trying to meet up with Nohe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I mean, it's hard to spend three hours listening to testimony, and less than half an hour on like millions of dollars. But West Maui Recycled Water System Expansion has 1 million of GE money and 15.6

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million of other grants. And if this is coming from the Federal Government, how certain are we that we're going to get it within this next 18-month period, and what happens if we don't get it? Because this is like a court-ordered thing, right, or something? No? We need...we need the water to protect Lāhainā from future fires, kind of thing.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, yeah, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So, that is just 1 million, so 1 million is for--we had to re...we got to...that reservoir that we were renovating, we need to put tanks instead based on our permit requirements. But the other 15.6, I don't know if that's kind of what Director Agawa was talking about, we needed a placeholder to put in for the Bureau of Rec grant that we're getting, right? So, that's pretty much the slot that we designated just to get the money. So, we just need a placeholder every year in order to mechanically accept that funds. Whether or not we get that funds or not, I mean, they haven't told us. I...I inquired about that, but they haven't said anything that we're not going to get it for infrastructure stuff...type of stuff. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It looks like Ms. Milner wants to jump into the conversation.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. So, she can always jump in, but that's my understanding of what...why that number is 16.6 [sic], yeah.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I just wanted to add that that grant is a reimbursement grant, so the majority of those funds have already been expended. So, if we don't get them, that just means we don't get reimbursed. We...we've already paid out of pocket for those.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Why didn't you just say that?

MR. NAKAGAWA: You --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, that's...that's a big difference.

MR. NAKAGAWA: You were asking all these questions, I'm trying to compartmentalize them. The other thing though --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Go ahead, complete your thought. Now we're all hanging.

MR. NAKAGAWA: You asked what the ramifications are.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.



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MR. NAKAGAWA: You will see higher sewer rate increases in the future.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, that is an additional revenue stream that we calculate in our sewer-rate model, right, for future years. It's supposed to be this year, and then in three years, get another portion, which lowers interest rates, right, based on what our CIP and base operating rate [sic]. So, the...the downfall of that is...just like GET, I kind of explained earlier, right? These additional revenue streams, they're all just helping keep the sewers--increase the sewer rates, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And what is the timeline that we see that water, R-1, being able to surround our town with a green buffer? . . .(timer sounds). . .

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Yeah. Thank you, Chair. . . .(laughing). . . I think we estimate like 2030, roughly, to be done. So, then you'll --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- you'll be seeing them all coming in front of you guys in the next years, right, CIP-wise. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess that's not too bad, like when you think that this is a 2026 budget. I kind of feel like I'm still in the '90s, but that's just four years, so not too bad, I guess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing). . . Okay, Members. Anybody else have questions for this? I want to wrap up Wastewater. I know we all love to talk to Eric Nakagawa. Okay, here we go.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just one last one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no. Send it to them in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, thank you. Okay. Solid Waste. So, three minutes, Solid Waste. We'll start with Member Cook, if you have a question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Director. What's the status on the Greasezilla?

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

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Cook. My understanding is that the Greasezilla has been procured as far as the equipment, and we have in our budget

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request for funding to prepare for Greasezilla permitting. There is some design and some upgrades, like a concrete slab that will need to be procured, and --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, is that the 600,000 for vog [*phonetic*] progress?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, the FOG and composting. That is --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- part of that money, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. And then \$400,000 for additional landfill cover. Do you purchase material and--for that--where's...where's the cover come from?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Cook. So, we do have a contract for landfill cover. We found that that contract amount increased substantially, and that's why we're asking for more money. Where that cover comes from, I defer to Troy if he knows.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Troy? Oh, I'm sorry. Members, can we excuse Eric Nakagawa?

MR. KAHALEKAI: The product comes from HC&D.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, okay.

MR. KAHALEKAI: So, right next door. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KAHALEKAI: So, from that quarry.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. And then, Director, what's--is there a plan for weekend...people being able to use the dump on the weekend?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sunday.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. To clarify, I think only Sunday the CML is closed. We looked into that at one point, but there's a lot of complexity in opening the dump...mainly personnel coverage and resources available right now.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, will it be open--how many hours on Saturday?

MR. AGAWA: I'll defer to Troy.

MR. KAHALEKAI: The hours are from 6:00 in the morning to 3:00.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: 3:00. And then do you shut the gate like at 2:00 or something? I mean --

MR. KAHALEKAI: At 3:00.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- if somebody's there, they get in at 3:00?

MR. KAHALEKAI: We accept them until 3:00, and then we monitor the gates for everybody to clear.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: All right. Thanks. The tires recycle isn't the landfill, right? That's the other group? Okay. That's it for now, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins next, followed by Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. For right now, I don't have any questions for Solid Waste. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, we did send in a question for Solid Waste Administrative Program to explain the increase in cost per ton at the Hāna Landfill.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sinenci. If you can just give me a second to find that --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- response.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then the second question--and I can wait for that one. The second question was, are there any master plans for the Hāna Landfill, any updates you want to share? I...I don't know if--did you want to--are there plans to change it to a satellite landfill where we haul out everything? Just...just some questions. We've heard rumors.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I want to clarify the rumors.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was fast.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: Thanks to Director Milner's help, I found the response.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. AGAWA: So, the cost per ton, basically, it's an estimate using prior year actual expenses, and then we adjust utilizing inflation rates, and then dividing by the total number of tons. So, it's based on historic data at our landfill. The increase in estimated cost in Hāna basically was higher expenditures, but the tonnage didn't go up. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MR. AGAWA: -- our expenditure went up divided by the same amount of tonnage, so cost per ton went up. And to answer your second question about master planning at the Hāna Landfill, right now, we are in the conceptual discussion about possibly going to a transfer-type operation, transfer-station-type operation, but there's nothing in the budget that reflects that at this point. We do have plans to look at other counties' operation that has similar to transfer stations, and kind of learning from what they have, and then make a determination then.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. I guess as far as--I mean, everything would be--added trucks on the Hāna Highway, so we would...if we have those discussions, I think we would--as much as possible, any diversion programs from the landfill, we would be supportive of.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. And we still need to look more into that because if we do change it to a transfer station, we would have compactors there, right? So, we would decrease the volume of the --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Um-hum.

MR. AGAWA: -- MSW, so we --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it.

MR. AGAWA: -- would need to see how many truckloads of compacted MSW versus non.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. That's all I have for Solid Waste, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama, followed --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I don't have any questions for Solid Waste.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director, even for this fund, are you expecting--or can any...anything be paid by CDBG-DR funds in Solid Waste?

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MR. AGAWA: I do not know. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Lee. I would have to look into that. I can't for--say...say for sure that we do have expenses that could be funded by that. I would assume, possibly, some of our CIP, although Solid Waste has a real minor CIP list compared to Wastewater. But we can look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, how--well, I guess this is not a budget question. I was going to ask you if the landfill in Central Maui was moving...you know, if it's on target, but that's okay. I'll find out another time. It's not exactly a budget question. Thank you. That's all I have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Is it Mr. Kahalekai? Oh, just I really like your carryover. You run a tight ship over there. I was wondering about from Fiscal Year '31...'25, the environmental compliance system design and construction. We put Solid Waste money, 750,000, and that was supposed to be the full...full six-year total, but then this year, we're putting in a million. So, does that mean we spent the 750,000 and we need another million, or we didn't even spend the 750,000 and the cost went up for CIPs? I'm on page 831 of the Program Budget, or you can phone a friend.

MR. AGAWA: Chair, we also have Sage Kiyonaga, who is our Civil Engineer VI that helps to oversee our CIP programs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I know him.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is he here? I don't...he's online.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sorry Mr. Kahalekai. I'll take Mr. Kiyonaga, if he wants. And then I also had a question about the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. It looks like that 50,000 hadn't been encumbered, but it's like not...like the environmental compliance system design and construction, it's not in the Fiscal Year '26.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Kiyonaga? Oh, he dropped off? Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's almost like I'm talking to myself.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or somebody?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, we heard you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Main thing I'm --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- not in an echo chamber or something.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, we're in the Council Chambers.  
...*(laughing)*...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Maybe it's your hat, he doesn't recognize you. ...*(laughing)*...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I think we...we were like petitioning the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan to have a food waste plan portion of it with Mr. Ross at one point, if there's any update on food waste management in the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan?

MR. AGAWA: So, Chair--thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. I'll address your first question, which is in CBS-3182, the environmental compliance system. So, that fund is basically our safety net when it comes to different expenditures. For example, CIP, very...we can't anticipate what expenditures--say a bid comes in higher than normal, or there's change orders. So, that fund helps to cover those unanticipated costs. And the reason why we increase that is the cost increases have gone up. So, we want to be prepared if there's any type of emergency cost ...*(timer sounds)*... allocations, and that's what that fund is used for.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Any follow-up on the Integrated Solid Waste Management, or is that EP&S? Oh. I guess we can follow-up on that one --

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in writing, but I do see like five CIPs for the Central Maui Landfill, and I...I imagine that's in addition to the construction of the permanent debris disposal site. And so, I just was wondering if you have the capacity to do those five in Central Maui, plus the permanent disposal site, plus I think there's something in Lānaʻi as well, and three--two Countywide ones. So, I just was wondering about the capacity. Because it's not listed on the CIPs for this fiscal year about the permanent debris disposal site, and this one didn't have that much vacancies though, so it...it...in a normal time, it would be okay?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So, that is correct, the PDS Phase 7 project is in addition to our normal CIP. However, we are well underway with the PDS site. We are in the Phase 2 construction process already. So, the next thing that our staff needs to work on is the operations RFP to actually cover and accept the waste there. To answer your question, yes, I think we are able to handle the normal CIP load along with the PDS project.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, you know, a lot of people had gravel on their lots and they didn't know where to put it. Would Solid Waste like that gravel from Lāhainā, or no?

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MR. KAHALEKAI: Yeah, we would take it. We--you can stop by. Cover is good, especially if free.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll...I'll send it over.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . That's a good one.

MR. AGAWA: Chair, I think Mr. Kiyonaga is online now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good.

MR. AGAWA: I'm not sure if he can address the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and the food-waste component.

MR. AGAWA: The food waste, I believe, Cecile Powell could address that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did they enable his microphone and camera?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Kiyonaga?

MR. KIYONAGA: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I just was wondering about any update on the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. From the answers, it looks like none of the money has been encumbered, but it's not on this Fiscal Year's CIP budget.

MR. KIYONAGA: We...we just completed that, Councilmember Paltin. And again, our...our focus right now is wildfire recovery. We will definitely look at implementing the ISWMP in fut...in future years. Was there anything in particular from the IS...ISWMP that you were looking to implement?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The food-waste component, if it...if it made it into the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan?

MR. KIYONAGA: I...I believe it did. We had a little...a few sections on the food-waste portion. Again, like Director Agawa had mentioned, maybe Cecile could help to assist.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director. Thank you, Member Paltin. Yes, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan has a couple of areas where the food waste is recognized. One of them is for the organics chapter, and then the other chapter is Chapter 12 with the recommendations. So, I don't have it right here, but it is a part of the plan. If you check out those two chapters, it goes into more detail. And I have had a couple of meetings with Mr. Ross regarding the plans of...of food-waste composting

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and where we're moving in that direction. I can update when it's Recycling Section's time if...if you folks question it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, is it online, available for viewing so I could look at Chapter 12?

MS. POWELL: Thank you. Yes, it is on. If you go to the Solid Waste Management website, there's a link to the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan halfway down the page.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sweet. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Johnson, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know, of course, I'm going to have questions about the Lānaʻi Landfill and the time. It seems to be getting shorter and shorter, and I know it takes time to get these set up, so maybe if you guys can give us an update on the Lānaʻi Landfill on your plan. And then also, the gulch behind the landfill. As you know, plantation days, they would just throw things down the gulch, and it's still there, so--and it's County property. So, Director?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. So, yes, we are currently working with Pūlama Lānaʻi on another piece of property for the landfill expansion. It is not adjacent to the existing landfill, it is in another location, but we are continuing talks about that. Regarding the gulch, I'll let Mr. Kahalekai give more details on it, but we did look into potential costs associated with cleaning up that gulch, and maybe Troy can give more detail on that.

MR. KAHALEKAI: Hi, Chair. Yes, we did look into that situation at Lānaʻi. Because of the steep terrain, and probably getting clarity of getting a road built, we are still in limbo with that. We're trying to find out a baseline so we can maybe get it cleaned up from outside help or possibly ourselves, but still in the works.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. The proposed--or the...the land--you mentioned that you were working with Pūlama Lānaʻi in regards to moving...or the extension of the landfill. It's not near the airport, is it? Because I know there's--correct me if I'm wrong, you guys are the experts. You can't have a landfill very close to an airport; is that correct?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. That is correct. I don't know the exact radius.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: I believe it may be a mile, but don't quote me on that, but yes, there are regulations of a distance required away from an airport. The area that we are looking at is right along that radius area --



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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MR. AGAWA: -- so that's why...that's one of the concerns we have, is if that piece of property does abide by that requirement. We're still vetting through that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks for that update, Director. And thank you, Chair. No further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo. I...I love learning new things every day. I didn't know that. Okay. Solid Waste. And I love having you on the floor with us, Mr. Kahalekai. I hope you join us more often. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So much love for this department. Okay. Self-haul, the 4 to \$5. Are there any concerns that this could lead to dumping? Because when we first--so, this is for CML, yeah? So, when we first introduced the idea of charging a fee, there were major concerns that this would lead to illegal dumping. And I think we've asked about that and it sounded like there wasn't, but now we're looking...I think it start--true...true, yes. I think it started at three, and here we are at five in the short time I've been on the Council, so...

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. That is a concern whenever we raise rates for the self-haul. However, the feedback...the limited feedback that I received from the community is that they actually look forward--well, I shouldn't say look forward, but they actually understand why we're raising the rates, and the comments I've been getting is, it's easier to give a \$5 bill than to get change back. But I just want to include and let the public be aware that we are well under the...the normal required payment in comparison, say, the Continental U.S., right? I think I mentioned this before. So, on the West Coast, I know that one truckload...residents pay 20 to \$30 to go to the landfill, one truckload, and we're at \$4. So, I want to also let the public know that we are behind in raising rates, and that's why we put in budget for a rate study this year so that we have something to base our rates on. But it is a concern on illegal dumping. We're hoping that in time, people get used to--to the rate increase. You know, a dollar does mean a lot to different people, we understand that, but our expenses do not stop going up as well. We need to pay for operations.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Have you done a cost analysis on comparing like burying to disposing of it some other way? Are...are we losing all of our EP&S folks? Because I have questions. You coming back? Okay. All right. I felt very limited to only asking per division. I wanted to ask whatever question I wanted to. Director?

MR. AGAWA: Sorry, could you repeat the question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Landfill versus another way of disposing of trash? Like because if you're saying that in California, or in the West Coast, that they dispose of trash and it cost like \$20 . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . if it's like going to like waste-to-energy or something, and it's reducing, you know, their energy costs, and it kind of like evens

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out a little bit, maybe. But you know, the...the continuing of...of just burying our trash--we're islands, you know? Limited land, and then the cost of constructing it, and just all of that, yeah?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. So, that is what we're looking at for the 99 acres. We have a master plan. I have to admit, the recovery efforts have set us back a little bit from moving forward with that. I do want to share that we are looking at a phased approach, which is the most efficient way. So, the first phase would be like a receiving station, and what I've learned in going to a lot of these conferences on waste is that it all starts with waste separation and segregation. Once you segregate the waste streams, then different types of waste-to-energy, waste-to-resources technology becomes more efficient. So, I've talked to Solid Waste Division. Our plans moving forward on the 99 acres is to first look into constructing a receiving station. That is a roof structure with a concrete slab where trucks can go and deposit the trash, and then segregate the waste. So, to answer your question, our intention is to move away from landfilling and go to some kind of waste-to-resource. And hopefully we can do that once we get a better handle on recovery efforts, and then we can give more resources to that venture.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, if land became magically available on Moloka'i, could you start doing that on Moloka'i?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Actually, there has been talks about us acquiring some land near the Moloka'i Landfill already, so we can definitely look into that. And, you know, once we get an operation up and running, you know, it's --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Exactly.

MR. AGAWA: -- easy to follow, right? So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's what I'm saying.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're small scale.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Let's --

MR. AGAWA: We definitely can --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- highlight it there.

MR. AGAWA: We definitely can look at it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Amazing. Love you. Okay. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . So good, yeah? Okay. So we're going to go second round, two minutes. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Director, what's the Central Maui Landfill gas --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're mic is on, no?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it is? Could you --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have to talk in it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The capital improvement project detail CBS-7869, Central Maui Landfill Gas System Expansion. It looks like a million.

MR. AGAWA: Sorry, could I just clarify what the ac...the question you're asking about that project?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm...I'm asking about the project. It's like there's--is it simply expanding the existing gas reclamation or project? I mean...or is it actually using the gas to generate electricity? What's the...

MR. AGAWA: Oh, thank you. So, as the landfill footprint grows, we need to expand...expand our gas collection system according to the growth of the landfilled area. So, that's just a normal expansion to collect gas, it's...yeah, it doesn't...isn't a part of any waste-to-energy type of project, it's regulatory requirements.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Do you flare that off? What do you do with the gas?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. We do currently flare it off. We recently have a project to upgrade the flare. However, in our Fiscal Year '25 budget, we do have monies to look into a study on how to use the gas beneficially, and then hopefully, in this coming year or two, we can actually use the gas. My...my thought was to make it easy on Solid Waste resources and staff is, we could just sell the gas, and we gain revenue that way. There's other options, but again, just limited resources, that would be the quickest way.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Makes sense. Thank you. That's my last question on Solid Waste.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next is Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I don't have any questions for Solid Waste.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just a clarification. You said on the tractor for green...green waste, that additional--oh, that was under EP&S? I can wait for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, you know, on page 226, it's all your machinery and equipment. So, you got that...the 4x4 pickup, and you've got the other replace--your--the loader and the steel wheel landfill compactor, and then you've got the compact track loader, and then you've got--well, you've got a whole bunch of equipment over here. Where do you store all of this stuff?

MR. AGAWA: I'll defer it to our Operation and Equipment Master --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah.

MR. AGAWA: -- Mr. Troy Kahalekai.

MR. KAHALEKAI: Chair, they're actually on the live landfill. So, we keep multiple machines at one time for the active landfill so they can swap. When we do get replacements, we put into the contracts to remove the older ones, so then they're not on our...on our floor.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so, when we move, where do they go? Do you...do you sell them someplace to somebody who needs them, or do you --

MR. KAHALEKAI: So, in the past, people used to try and rehabilitate them to put online. In our case, they'd probably be destroyed and just recycled.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, you don't have--but they stay out there in the elements all day, all night, rain and shine, all of that?

MR. KAHALEKAI: Right now, yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Do they get...I mean, do they get rusted easy, do they kind of like...you know, do they--I mean, you leave your car out like that all the time. And they don't get washed, right? I mean, I'm just trying to figure out do we leave it out in the elements like that, and is that okay? I mean, it's got to be tough and weather-beaten or something.

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MR. KAHALEKAI: So, in our budget, we're raising the...asking for more money for cleaning because in the past, we haven't. These machines now run from a million dollars each. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Half...half a million is the goal too, right now. So, yes, we need to start taking care of our equipment so they can have longevity.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Very helpful. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does the Solid Waste fund get any supplemental transfer from the General Fund?

MR. AGAWA: Yes, we do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How much? And then...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it Budget Director that has that answer? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next question is, like have you done any analysis of like waivers that you give out, the cost for cleanups and County-collaborated cleanups with Public Works and the State of the cost of cleanups versus, I guess, you know, the supplemental transfer and what the residents pay? I think one of my written questions previously was like County of Hawai'i, you don't pay to dump rubbish, and how do they do it? If...if you said you were going to other jurisdictions and seeing...I mean, like it's easy to say, like oh, the folks on the continent pay \$20 a truckload. I can easily say where I'm from, nobody pays to dump rubbish, you know? So, it's...

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So, we have looked into waivers and costs. My understanding is that when we looked at County of Kaua'i, they have a combined funding system. So, part of their funding assistance to the public, it's enveloped into the property taxes. So, they would have an allocation and a property tax to the Solid Waste Division fund, and then that is for everybody across the board, right? Now, if you want door-to-door services with refuse collection, they pay a small premium for that service because it's a service of convenience. City and County of Honolulu, I don't have the actual values . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and I'm not sure, we're still looking into this, but we believe that they envelope the cost of refuse collection into something like a property tax. So, to answer your question, we could get rid of refuse service collection or landfilling fees, we just would need to find another way to fund that. So, either we would envelop it into the property tax, but the expenditures and the...the needed...needed funding would not relieve us, right? We would still need to pay for expenditures and operations.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: With a supplemental transfer, it is kind of like a hybrid system on the property tax though, right? I mean, even though you guys are the...one of the lower ones. I mean, I don't know, I haven't gotten the answer of how much the supplemental transfer is. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. The supplemental transfer proposed for Fiscal Year '26 is \$14,559,183, and that's page 8 of the operating budget.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. All my questions have been answered, and I'm just waiting for the grants. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right, mahalo. Okay. Oh, I think I'm done too. I think mine's *[sic]* is just for EP&S.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yep.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Does anybody have any more--another round --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, oh, oh, oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, I take that back. I take it back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, okay, okay, okay. Reclaiming my time. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Budget Director, what...what I was mentioning regarding the supplemental transfer is, as...as far as I can remember, every year, there's a supplemental transfer for Solid Waste. Wastewater will often break even, it just didn't during COVID, of course. And then Water does, you know, break even, or they have like some Carryover/Savings which, you know, all stays within. And then Highway Fund...I mean, those aren't really like self-funded, but like the whole intention of having department divisions, or departments that are self-funded is to help our bond rating, is my understanding, and having the policy that ensures that the funding will

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continue to cover the cost of operations. So, if we...if we were--so, okay. I guess one...or well, actually, you go ahead and comment, and then I'll ask a follow-up question.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. In discussions with our Bond Council, because these aren't enterprise funds like the Water Fund, and because we're not setting out that they're self-sustaining, which is what we used to do with the Highway Fund, but we stopped doing that, they don't have any concern about our supplemental transfers to the funds.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I don't have a follow-up question for you then. So--okay, I do. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, if we were to do as Member Paltin--or, you know, as in other counties and not, you know, have all the rates, and just incorporate it into the cost of real property tax, or another fund, or whatever, that wouldn't affect our bond rating at all then because it's already set up to not--and expect it to be self-funded?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. No, I don't think it would. Obviously, we'd want to have that conversation with the Bond Counsel, but...I think we could have a longer . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . conversation about it right now, but we'll have a conversation later about what it might look like, what the collection mechanisms would be, and where the funds would go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right. So, we are...I think we're done, right, with this division --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and we will now go to what you all have been waiting for, which is EP&S.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yep.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yep.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep. Okay, EP&S. So, your F--yes? Yes? Oh, yeah. Troy, you want to go? We loved having you here. Oh, does Troy want to say something? Troy, you want to say something to us? No?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: They should let you be here because I think everybody was enjoying you being here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . One-way street. . . *(laughing)*. . . Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, the division you've all been waiting for, right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if you look at Environment--EM-02, it has a list of all these grants that were--a lot of them testified earlier today, so it's--they're in here if you want to see the list. But Member Cook, you want to go first for EP&S? Oh, I'm sorry, wrong. Let's do Johnson. Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook--we're going to mix it up a little bit--U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin, then Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Chair. And, you know, I'll just start from the overall--my...one of my questions was about the demand for recycling grants. And my understanding in your responses was that there was about a 2 million ask, but we only dished out 1 million. Is--okay, you want to clarify on that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cecile Powell.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. Yes, we got \$2 million in grant asks that was...that made it through the first round of grant applicants, and we awarded 400,000 was our budgeted, and I got approval from Budget and Purchasing to procure an addition 100,000 from our 6112 contractual services to provide grant monies.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, do you...I'm curious to how, even though there's a lot of asks, some people didn't get the money that they--the full money that they asked for. And I know the ESID, every situation's different, but I'm curious for these ones in particular. Like the testifier came up from Rethink, he...it says in the...in the response that he asked for 200K, but he received 80K. And I was trying to get him to...to elaborate on that. So, can you elaborate on that?

MS. POWELL: Director. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. Yes, I think that...you know, he texted later, but he did ask for 200,000 initially --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.



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MS. POWELL: -- and he received 80,000. And that was...this is exactly why we're asking for an extension of 600,000 for Recycling Grants Program, so that we're able to provide more on-island recycling services. Like the Rethink Center is a great example of how --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MS. POWELL: -- we have to either reduce our grantees, or reduce the deliverables of the grant.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I see. Okay. The...the other one that kind of stuck out to me was...if I'm reading this right, Food Waste Recycling Feasibility Implementing...Implementation Plan. And I think Councilmember Paltin was just discussing on that. 232K, and then they got--or they asked for 232K, but they got 59K; is that correct? And then what's the reasoning behind that?

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Member Johnson. Yes, they did ask for 232,000, and they received 59,000 and some change. And that is...you know, as we're going from Round 1 to Round 2, we have to...we...we have to downsize the resources that we can provide to folks, which again, is why it's another great example of why we're asking for an extension--or...or --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. POWELL: -- expansion of our grant monies.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I'm...I'm seeing a pattern, and I wonder if that some of these folks who are applying for grants maybe need a little bit of education on how our system works. Would you agree with that, that they need to be kind of--learn how...how to . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . collect the grant, how to learn how to do a grant? If they got better skilled at that, do you think that the deliverables and the ask would be more in line?

MS. POWELL: So, every year...every--thank you, Member Johnson, yes. Every year, we do have a grant information session, and the Recycling Grants Program is a niche sort of program where we do have ongoing grants as you--we do support them year after year. Like the Maui Huliau Foundation is an example of that, it's like a \$20,000 grant per year for education and outreach, but the majority of our recycling grantees, they're developing on-island recycling, and they're navigating grant systems a lot of times for the first time. And that's...a part of program is not necessarily mentoring, but we're introducing them into the grants process, and we do sort of like walk their hand like --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. POWELL: -- through...through the process.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's--I think that's highly needed, and I'm glad your department does it. I...I wish some other departments--Human Concerns could do

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something like that, but I think that's really important. And my time's up. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . That was kind of smooth. So, next we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Member Cook, Member U‘u-Hodgins, Sinenci, then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I got from cough drops for you, Member Johnson. Okay. 250,000 for the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan program professional services. Can you speak a little more about that for the dashboard and services?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. I can take that one on. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So, when the CARP management and development and implementation was assigned to EP&S or DEM from the Mayor's Office, we realized that --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: From us. It was us.

MR. AGAWA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It was Council.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, ultimately. But we realized--and as most of you know now, that we have limited resources at EP&S, and it's changing over time. Not for the better, but, you know, we lost a key player. So, we realized we couldn't do a lot of the work internally when it came to the CARP, and that's why the professional services is there as a ask, so that we can hire a consultant, environmental consultant, to help our EP&S team develop the dashboard, which is, we believe, something that we can accomplish in the next year. And then moving forward, once we gain additional resources, personnel specifically, then we can actually anticipate more development on that part. But yeah, it's for professional services to hire as a consultant.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then the consultant wouldn't develop a new dashboard because dashboard...County already paid for a dashboard, yeah?

MR. AGAWA: That is correct. We would expand on the current dashboard, and then--yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you know when the dashboard would be live again? Because it...it was live before, and then it was unalived [sic].

MR. AGAWA: I don't know...I don't know, Mia...yeah, sorry. We can look more into it. Again, our key player left recently, so...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's why hard, yeah? Okay, here we go.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Oh, I'll wait for my next round.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, my question, Maui County Wetlands, \$800,000, but there's no...I don't see a description at all on 7-21. 7-21, Maui County Wetlands, 800,000. I don't see a description on the right-hand side.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Cook. Again, that comes under our Environmental Program section, who we lost the head of recently. So, we can look into that and follow-up in writing, if --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- possible.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you. And the \$300,000 stray tire program--or spare...anyway, recycling tires. Is that literally like recycling them? Is it like collecting them and shipping them off-island, or is it doing something with them?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Cook. So, my understanding is that is to fund a pilot project to collect tires. We realized that one of the hurdles for the general public who has these stray tires is the cost of the disposal. So, this is to get a vendor to accept the tires from the general public and cover the disposal costs so that they...they don't have to pay out-of-pocket for that. My understanding is these vendors do have an off-taker for the tires, but I cannot say specifically what that is.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That is terrific because it is a real problem with tires, like what to do with them. So, is that going to be the \$300,000 will just basically take the tires to the...to...where would you take them, and how's that going to work? Or is it a work in progress?

MR. AGAWA: Oh, Cecile Powell can comment on that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Cecile?

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. It...it does say that it's the development of the tire...of the tire recycling program. I believe the AVM section is...is leading that, but the recycling section, we do have a pilot happening in June. We have 80,000 from our Household

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Hazardous Waste Fund, and we're doing a very similar program to sort of try it out and pilot it. So, that's going to be our guinea pig, and that's going to launch in June in--that's this fiscal year. So, we'll know more about where we're moving forward once we start it up and see how it goes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, thank you for doing that. I'm very supportive and excited about it because that's been very problematic for a lot of people.

MS. MILNER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

MS. MILNER: Hi. Sorry, I--just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member --

MS. MILNER: -- briefly, the Maui County Wetlands question. Those...that grant was transferred over from OED last fiscal year, and those funds are used to support work of organizations like the Save the Wetlands Hui, Rooted Kekahi Me Ka 'Āina, and other organizations doing wetlands restoration work in the County of Maui. So, it's a competitive grant pot for wetland restoration work.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, have those grants been awarded?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I believe most, if not all, of the grants have been awarded for Fiscal Year '25, and the competitive-grant process for Fiscal Year '26 will begin in July.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And my last question --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- what do we do with paints? House paint, oil-based --

MR. AGAWA: My general understanding is that we --

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

MR. AGAWA: -- have the household hazardous waste collection event where people can drop off paints, but I'll allow Cecile to comment on that.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Member Cook. It depends. If it's water-based paint, the VOC levels are so low nowadays it's not considered hazardous waste, but

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you're not supposed to take liquids into the Central Maui Landfill or MSW. There is a paint exchange program on Moloka'i. We used to have a paint exchange through Mamala...Mālama Maui Nui, I believe, when it was community work day back in the day, but as of right now, we do refer people to have any stains, varnishes, and oil-based paint to take to the household hazardous waste collection events...and for the water-based paint, to solidify it, and triple bag it, and take it to the landfill; or dry it out if it's almost empty; or reuse it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank...thank you very much for that. That answers my questions and I'm --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I thought you were going to slip another --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- grateful for your service.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- question. Thank you. Thank you. Okay. So, next we have Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm on page 7-87 in the Budget Details, and I'll begin at the top of the page. We have \$50,000 for Teens on Call for the Pā'ia Bypass area. I love what Teens on Call does. Brian McCafferty is an amazing human being. He is getting old, like the rest of us. So, last year they didn't use their \$30,000. Are we anticipating them using all of their \$30,000 we have budgeted for this year?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Powell?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Member U'u-Hodgins. Unfortunately, Ms. Herman had to leave early, and this comes under the Abandoned Vehicles and Metals. But to answer your question, we do anticipate them to expend the 30,000 this year.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Cool. Happy to hear it. And then moving on down the line, for contractual services and the highway beautification, we have \$823,000 and some change, and the base of that, which is only expanding \$50,000--I say \$50,000 lightly--but it's mainly for Olowalu and Pā'ia areas in your explanation. Can you please tell me how many cars you folks removed from the Pā'ia area, and where they are normally coming from?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. Again, if you can send that in writing, we can respond in writing with the absence of Ms. Herman.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, you got that? You got that? Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. So, I do have another question for her. If she's not here, I will just ask it, and we can send it in writing. So, we have an expansion for the County grants regarding abandoned vehicle prevention, and giving \$100,000 more

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regarding prevention. So, I just wanted to hear what we're going to assume how we can prevent this from happening. And I'll provide some context. I have never abandoned a car on the side of the road, or a refrigerator, or a washing machine, or a couch like ever, nor have I ever thought about it, so it's kind of...hmm, I get it, we need to because it's a safety issue when we have all these things on the side of the road, but it's a really expensive program. And I would love to see prevent...prevention in this area, and maybe some security measures because legislating, and putting a whole bunch of money in a bell curve in the big--on the opposite ends of the bell curve is annoying for me. Because again, I consider myself like a regular-schmegular [sic] citizen. I pay my taxes, we have property tax, and this is something I won't use except when it's regarding safety. Like there was a car that was abandoned right outside of Pā'ia School at the entrance, and it was lit on fire. . . .(timer sounds). . . And I'm happy to see it removed, and I'm happy we have this in there, but I'm fussy that we have to have it in there. Thanks, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Sinenci, Kama, Lee, and then Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo for sticking with us all day. I did want to mahalo Ms. Herman. I think the metals collection is really helpful in the East Maui community, and as Member U'u-Hodgins said, oftentimes when we don't get it, we see more dumping on the side of the road. So...and I...and as I drive the Hāna Highway, I do see more towards the Huelo side, I--you know, with the location of...of Central and them not being...they don't have like a spot to dump, then they...they just dump it on the side of the road. So, hopefully, to Member U'u-Hodgins' point, that we can have someplace, like a satellite area, where they can dump some of these metals in that area...because that's where I see most of the dumping when I drive in. Director?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Member Sinenci. So, just to comment on that, you know, we've heard it in budget meetings that the community--we're all--humans are a creature of convenience, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: So, what we've heard is district or regional collection sites. So, one, on the Solid Waste side, we are looking at possible transfer stations of municipal solid waste. We are also actively looking through our AVM section and Ms. Herman for locations for waste collection events in different regions. So, we are looking to accommodate this, I guess, human nature of being overall maybe...just looking for convenience to dispose of items, but we are working through that. One of the issues is County-owned property, right? We want to look for County-owned property so we don't have to pay lease, but we are looking into that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And we have a lot of State property that, you know, we could potentially--if you...if the Mayor requests of the State that could be EOed to the County. To Ms. Herman's point, in...in the budget, it's proposed to remove 1,300 abandoned derelict vehicles in this fiscal year. And so, I know we've been happy to receive the...the free program. Is the program going to continue to be free for residents?

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MR. AGAWA: Yes. Thank you for the question, Member Sinenci. So, I believe you're referring to the Tow and Scrap Program, where we cover the costs of towing. I believe that will continue. Now, for abandoned vehicles, the registered owner of the vehicle is required to do the payment for the tow and any operational costs. But for the Tow and Scrap, it'll still be free --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- two vehicles per calendar year.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that, Director. And then is there a quota for each district?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Huh-uh.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. To my knowledge, there is no quota per district. It's an overall pot, budget pot, but...you know, we do encourage people in different districts to utilize that service . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and it's until the pot runs dry basically.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- followed by Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, can you talk about the status of the abandoned vehicle disposal process? The process itself, when it--you--these, you tell us you call ClickFix *[sic]*, right? So, can you--from that process, what happens to the cars?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Kama. I'll do my best, and --

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

MR. AGAWA: -- I may say something incorrect, but --

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

MR. AGAWA: -- there is two processes that I know of. One is through SeeClickFix, where the community can input it onto an app --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

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MR. AGAWA: -- and that gets routed to our Department and to EP&S, and then we would work with MPD to address that vehicle. There is a process where MPD needs to tag it. There's a waiting period. There's a report process that goes...goes from MPD to EP&S. Once we receive that report at EP&S, we have that vehicle towed within 24 to 48 hours. The other process is they can call the MPD nonemergency number--244-6400, if memory serves me correctly--and select item 0, or extension 0. And I recently did that two days ago for a vehicle in my brother's neighborhood. So, the same process...MPD will get that request, they will go out there, they will tag the vehicle they would see if the vehicle's moved, and if not, the report would come to EP&S, and then 24 hours to 48 hours, the car would be towed.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, that was my question. Because it seems like we have these abandoned vehicles all over the place, and even when they're tagged, they seem to be there the next week after that. So, is there a reason for that?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, that was a great question. So, a lot of times, people are...are aware that their vehicle got tagged, and there is a waiting period. So, in some instances, they physically move the vehicle a couple feet, and then MPD considers that...that the vehicle has been moved and not stagnant, and then the process and the waiting period starts over again. And then there's vehicles that are occupied by certain res...houseless individuals. There's another process for that as well. There's also another situation where there's trash around the vehicle. The towing company would not tow the vehicle if there's an amount of trash around the vehicle. So, we need to go through another vendor to clean the trash first, and then the tow company will come in to tow the vehicle. So, there's all different kinds of scenarios, but one reason is people do move the vehicle, and then it starts the clock over for them again.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, they move the vehicle, what, two feet, three feet? I mean, how...how do you know they went move them two feet, three feet?

MR. AGAWA: So, MPD marks the tires.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. They chalk the tires similar to how they chalk the tires around here, and then...yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But it's on the same property, it's on the same block, it's on the same...okay. Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin.



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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director Agawa, you know the Revolving Fund for the vehicle removals, how is that replenished? And is it depleted every year?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: 14 million.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I...I saw--he mentioned 15 million [sic], but where does that come from, and how is it replenished?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Chair Lee. So, I was just made aware that it is through the registration...vehicle registration process. I believe there's a \$2 surcharge fee for that that goes into that fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And then for either you or the Budget Director, is that fund depleted every year?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. No, that fund is generally not completely appropriated every year, but the majority is appropriated every year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, are you saying that the registration fees amount to a mil...\$15 million a year?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The Highway Beautification, Abandoned Vehicle, and Tourism Related Traffic Congestion Revolving Fund for this year is at 2.3 million. So, we're estimating 1.3 million in revenue for this fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, how much is spent every year on average?

MS. MILNER: Just a moment, Chair. I need to find that page in the Budget Details.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Maybe you can check the balance because, you know, there...there seems to be an awful lot of abandoned vehicles on the road. And so, it's not a matter of the fund being depleted, it's a matter of not having the workforce?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department. We'll...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Could we get the question in writing so we can provide an accurate and thorough response? Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, Chair, you're going to ask Staff to do that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. You got it? Yeah? Got it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you very much. I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are the two positions funded by the Revolving Fund vacant or filled?

MR. AGAWA: I'm sorry. Could you repeat the question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are the two positions funded by the Revolving Fund vacant or filled? P29132 and P29133, Recycling Specialist I and V, Budget Details, page 7-85. And how do we know the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Manager position, which has been vacant for a year and eight months, will be filled in the next 30 days?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. Those two positions are filled...however, the Specialist V, I believe, should be a IV.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And how do we know that Manager position will be filled in the next 30 days?

MR. AGAWA: That is our hope. We did do our interviews. We have offered it. However, cost-of-living issues have prevented people from accepting the position. So, we're vetting through the list, and also looking at different strategies of how we move forward with that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is anyone being TA or TRed into that position currently?

MR. AGAWA: Currently, we are not. However, we are contemplating a strategy to do so in the near future.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Why...why hadn't it been done up until this point? That's like SOP, huh, standard operating procedure?

MR. AGAWA: We actually did that in the past on a revolving system with the different section heads. It didn't really, I guess, answer a lot of questions for us as far as if the TA was working or not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Why would it be revolving? In...in my history, like our union, it's by seniority. Was everyone hired at the same date?

MR. AGAWA: No, that was just a strategy that we determined to see and give everybody a fair chance of the TA. It was more to observe performance. Two of the three section heads did have TA, one declined...but yeah, I'll leave it at that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the four vacancies in EP&S, is that going to be same next week, or will it be more or less? And then I guess, maybe for Ms. Powell, if one of my priorities is West Maui Green Cycle, would you prefer me condition the money, or add 350...350,000? Your preference.

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MR. AGAWA: I'll answer the first question. So, out of the four vacancies in EP&S, the Account Clerk III . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . we're in the interview process currently. And for the Recycling Specialist I, that is intended to be filled on July 1st of this year. And the other two are pending...one is with the Department and one is with DPS.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If Ms. Herman's last day is on Monday, is that going to be a fifth vacancy?

MR. AGAWA: Good question. To my knowledge, we just recently received, I think, a resignation notice. Up until then, it was just a discussion between Ms. Herman and Admin. But that would be a potential additional vacancy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then your preference, Ms. Powell?

MS. POWELL: So, I am familiar--thank you, Member Paltin. I'm familiar with the proviso grant, but I'm not sure if I understand the question between the...what's the difference between the two.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you want me to do the proviso method or add \$350,000 as a line item?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I think either approach is fine, as long as you add the additional funding. So, if you wanted to condition it under a competitive pot, increase it by 350,000, then add the condition, or add it as its own line item. The Department can issue the grant either way, as it will have its own index code.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. The question was, can I just proviso it without adding money, or do you need me to add money?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . In other words...

MS. POWELL: Thank you. Thank you for the clarification. Yes, we would need to add the monies. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, is that it? Okay. So, for this department, you have been--or you received a lot of requests for the environmental protection grants, and it was--it is this fiscal year, 400,000...490,000, and the proposed is 700. So, that's what you were talking about, right, this 700,000? You would like it to be approved at a higher rate? No, I'm talking to the Department. Environmental protection grants, on page 233 of the Program Budget, Fiscal Year '26, is proposed 700,000. So, this is what you were talking about, and you give out a lot of grants from this particular pot; is that correct? Environmental protection grants. It was--it is today, Fiscal Year '25, 490, and you are proposing it to be 700?

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MR. AGAWA: Oh, okay. Thank you, Chair. Now I understand the question. Yes. The demand for all of our recycling, environmental, all of our grants is more than the allotted funding. So, yes, the ask is greater in '26 because of the demand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next question, MISC. And I was thinking maybe Member Kama was going to ask this question because last budget cycle, she asked for an audit of MISC. And did that ever get done?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question, Chair Sugimura. Unfortunately, the answer is no. I take that upon myself. We were just stretched thin, as you folks know. And I don't want to keep using that excuse. But we did look into it, we did talk to the County Auditor for their suggestion, I just didn't have the capacity to move that forward. The request was that if we had more time and could possibly put that in this year's budget, we would put more--a better effort forward to get that audit done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you need funding? Is that--was the...was that the challenge, to get --

MR. AGAWA: No, I don't believe --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- an outside auditor?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I don't believe funding was the challenge, it was just resources and...yeah, available time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. They are very important. In my years of being with the Council, it--I went to a community meeting in--at Kalama Intermediate. And I remember they were saying that if you give us \$2 million, we'll get rid of the coqui frog. And the Mayor at the time then did appropriate \$2 million to MISC, and we still have coqui frogs. I remember I signed a petition, I thought, oh, this is a good idea, give us the \$2 million, okay, beg, beg, beg, ask for the Mayor at that time, and we still have coqui frogs. Please do whatever you need to do to support this, and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: West Maui doesn't have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I can...I can give you names after --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- coqui frogs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- if you need names for who said it. The EP&S Department is going through some changes, I understand, and I'm sure...I'm sure there's a lot of work to do. So, all of the grants that you inherited from the OED Department, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . are you able to handle them?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair, for that question. The answer is yes.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: It will be challenging, but when I heard back from the division and the sections, I think we are able to manage the grants right now. I don't think we can add any more grants to our...our list. AVM did comment that if the two Federal grants that they applied for for Fiscal Year '26 comes to fruition, we...we need...may need additional support to manage the Federal grants. As I mentioned in the opening comments, we applied for two different Federal grants, but that has not been awarded yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. All right. So, we are going to go to another round of two minutes, and then I'm hoping to close this because we have to catch up with Member U'u-Hodgins. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. All my questions have been answered, and I really appreciate the Department...and some of the work you guys do is so invaluable, so thank you for all your service. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay, first, MISC. I was here when they said--Adam (*phonetic*), I forget his last name, said if you want to eradicate, it would cost like \$10 million. Otherwise, the 2 million is just to manage and like keep it in Maliko Gulch. And it hasn't really spread. So, I...I think it's important that when we, you know, reflect on what happened in the past, that it's reflected on correctly, that if we really wanted to eradicate, it was going to take like five times the amount of money that we were giving at the time. Okay, abandoned vehicles. How is the program on Moloka'i coming along?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. And again, I am not able to answer that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. That's fine. That's fine.

MR. AGAWA: We can follow-up in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I can...I can talk story with them later. Okay. And so, as you were talking story with Member Kama about the policy and all that, is that...that's not in the Code. Is that in Administrative rules as far as like police chalking and stuff? Because maybe it should be changed to like a mile instead of like an inch. . . .(*laughing*). . .

MR. AGAWA: Yes, it is under Administrative rules.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. So, we can go talk story with them about that. And then on our drive to Hāna for our budget hearing, I saw multiple abandoned vehicles on the side of the road. And it...it just looks like we don't love our community, you know, and I want our community to feel loved and taken care of. Do you think at this point, it would be--you know, like you were saying, oh, the tow...tow

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companies aren't going to move an abandoned vehicle if there's junk around it. So, it just sounds like it's like more complicated, and like . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . feet-dragging. Would it be more feasible if we just had a towing company ourselves, like...like a program under the County?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. Just to clarify, are you suggesting a County...County employees, like our own towing --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: -- service? Oh, that's a good question. Yeah, that's something we could look into. To me, it would be more fiscally-responsible, I think, if we had our own --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think so.

MR. AGAWA: But yeah...considering the amount of tows we do every year, yeah. Whether that violates any kind of rules, I...I would...I don't know, I would have to, you know, consult with Corp. Counsel. But yeah, that is something we can look into.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And you can look into it with the budget you have?

MR. AGAWA: Not for this year, we--yeah, I don't think we --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, no, no, not like to propose like funding for a program this year, but look into it in, you know, this--for the...for the next...for FY '27?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I think that's within our capability to look into that. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, great. Okay, mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins. Oh, she might have left. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't have any further questions, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I don't see her.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think she went over to get ready for us. Member Sinenci.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. What about a shredder to shred old vehicles? Is that too expensive?

MR. AGAWA: We can also look into that. I wish Troy Kahalekai was still here because he would have more knowledge on that, but yes, we could look into that as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. That's all I have, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No questions, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I'm on Budget Details, page 7-13. There's one, two, three, four...five position numbers that begin with 00, and I was wondering if they had actual position numbers, or they've yet to be described. One is an expansion position, if that's been filled, like do we know? Because usually, when you start with 00, it's...it's not yet posted for open recruitment. Re...Recycling Specialist I, P00568; Environmental Program Specialist I times three, P00569, P00602, P00603; and Recycling Specialist III, P00709. And would that be four additional vacancies from the vacancies...the other four vacancies? And does anyone know where we got this laundry detergent?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, they passed it out. It's from me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Since we're talking about environmental management, it's so you don't have those big, juggy [sic] chalk...I mean, containers, and you can use these sheets.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, good job. Tide Pods.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, they're great.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Brah, my neighbor had to take her baby to the hospital because they ate one. Yeah, you got to be careful with the Tide Pods.

MR. AGAWA: Member Paltin, we can respond to you in writing on that. We need to confirm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You got that? Okay. The positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, awesome. So, then that will be part of the in-writing vacancies with the position IDs by section kind of dealio [sic]?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: To broke it down...break it down. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. AGAWA: Oh, I just got confirmation from our DPO. So, yes, all expansion positions have been created in '25.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, are they filled?

MR. AGAWA: No, not all of them are filled.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So maybe you can send over the updated position IDs for like--it went from P00568 to blah, blah, blah.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, we can follow up on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Nice.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. All right, Members. So, that is a second round. If nobody has any more, I'm going to--okay. I'm--what I'm--I'm going to--let me finish the sentence. So, I'm going to take this next round and give you two minutes at max. And we're trying to close this department so that we can move over and go to our district meeting tonight, but I wanted to talk to you about your priorities and conditions. All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Cardboard recycling Upcountry, how can we make that happen? Jasee here? Jasee.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. Yeah, Mr. Law oftentimes visits my office. There was a little bit of misunderstanding, I think, in what he was explaining. So, I believe what Mr. Law was asking for was a cardboard bin at the Kula Community Center, and our interpretation was a recycling drop-box center. And I think I responded by it needs to be permitted, Solid Waste permit, that type of thing. When we further got clarification, Ms. Powell did confirm that we are able to provide Kula Community Center with a cardboard collection box.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're making it happen.

MR. AGAWA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And he's not here to experience this. Oh. Okay, we're going to have to reenact this after. Mahalo, Director. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's nice. Okay. And...do you have any more questions as you walk away? You're done, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?



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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nobody else? Okay. Thank you. Nobody else. I'm going to close out this department. Thank you very much for being here, and you'll be receiving questions from us based upon the discussion. I...you can tell all of us appreciate your work. Oh, go ahead, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry, I forgot about the green waste tractor [sic] for Hāna Landfill. You--Cecile was going to speak to it?

MS. POWELL: Thank you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. POWELL: -- Director. Thank you, Member Sinenci. What was the question regarding the...the --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It's...it's --

MS. POWELL: -- are you talking about the excavator?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, it's the excavator, right, for green waste in --

MS. POWELL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- Hāna.

MS. POWELL: Yes. So, the...it's twofold, we're asking for two pieces of equipment for Hāna Landfill to be operated by Hāna Landfill staff. One is the horizontal grinder, and one is an excavator to feed the grinder. Because currently they have a chipper, and they're handfeeding, and it's not feasible. So, we need to replace that with a grinder, and then an excavator to feed it.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Okay. Any others? None? No more questions? So, I'm going to thank the department. Department, you want to say anything to us?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Yes, I just want to show my appreciation for all of your support, and for listening to us and working with us time and time again to move forward with our programs. And we do appreciate the support. Thank you very much.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we appreciate your work too, as you can tell. All right. So, Member Rawlins-Fernandez is not here to give you kisses as...as . . .*(laughing)*. . . she's been loving this department. Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering about like the deputy, like how--because you need a...you got a lot on your plate. How are we going to find a deputy? And like probably the raise could help? I mean, vacancies.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you can answer? You have a fast answer? You found somebody?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Just to address that, there is somebody that is interested in the position. It is a person from outside of the County, which helps us because we don't need to pull from internal resources.

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

MR. AGAWA: However, we still need to vet through this person. Managing Director has requested an interview. And I believe the starting date could possibly be July 1st, but that is pending.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Only coming on when the big money's there.

MR. AGAWA: But yeah, I really need the support. It's been rough, but surviving. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- almost the fastest we filled one, so...I mean, it works.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, Department, just before you say goodbye then, I think you briefly talked about rates and fees, but you need to tell us...do you want to say anything more about it while you're sitting here? I think it's only on page 7 in the rates and fees, all the rest are same. I think you can talk about it.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

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

MR. AGAWA: The overall comment that I want to make is, you know, we're always fiscally responsible when we work on these rates and fees, and we don't ask for anything more, we don't add fluff to it. In fact, a lot of times, we trim back. But, you know, we work hard to get to the rates and fees that we propose in the budget, our operations and our expenditures justify it, and...yeah, we just, you know, appreciate your support. And if

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you have any questions, you can feel free to just reach out to the Department on those. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're fine with the rates and fees. All right, Members. So, at this time, thank you very much, Department, and we will now proceed with the meeting...on with the meeting real fast, and then you can all go off to our next district meeting. Thank you. Thank you very much. Okay, let's see. So, now that we're finished with Department of Environmental Management, I was hoping to bring up Personnel again, but we tried to get them to come today, but they were not available. And so, tomorrow, our plan is to have Agriculture, then OCS, followed by the Office of the Mayor, and then Personnel. We will then go over the general budget provisions, Revolving Funds if needed, and additional legislation. So, with tomorrow looking like a longer day, I'm proposing extending our deadline to submit priorities to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. It was...it was supposed to be 9:00, right? So, 4:00, extending the day...extending the deadline, as hopefully, you know, we can finish early enough so you'll have some time to...to work on this also. Thursday is also Council meeting, and then we have Wailuku-Kahului residency area meetings in the Chamber. So, there'll be a little bit of time in between the Council meeting and the next meeting in the evening. By turning in our priorities on Thursday, this will allow time for Staff to create a summary of the Members' proposal, which will be provided to the Committee by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 21st. Everyone's priorities will be compiled in a single spreadsheet and the Department, OCS, is going to work on...on this as we've always received every year, and is a...it's a big undertaking for them. As we reviewed together at our March 11th Committee meeting, Member priorities include two residency area increases, five Countywide area increases, two Revolving Fund conditions, and two conditions for County grants. Other amendments that result in cuts or are nonsubstantive will not count towards a Members' priorities, and as a general rule, priorities increase the budget, and we will consider proposed as...proposals that cut or do not impact the budget total separately. So, if it's going to add money, it's...it'll be counted. If not, thank you very much. Other amendments that involve moving funding from one department to another without changing the purpose of the funding will not count towards a Members' priorities. I think that was the example of Member Paltin moving resilient...resiliency hubs from the Mayor's Office to MEMA. Your grant...your OED grant conditions are due Monday at noon. You will also take up the matter of increasing the grant appropriation from 140,000 that same day. It came up in discussion with Member...Chair Lee was talking about it earlier. If we do not increase the conditions, we will set a deadline of additional conditions at that time...if we don't increase the conditions. Decisions week will start next week Monday, with a presentation from Finance on the annual real property tax certification, and at that time, we can have a preliminary disc...preliminary discussion on RPT tiers and rates, should the Members desire. You...you should also discuss your proposals with RPT to gather the information needed when we make final decisions on rates and fees. We will make those decisions at the end of decision week, and have RPT available to answer questions. Afterwards, we'll begin decision-making. Other than OED grants, I...I intend to take up each department on the order they appear in Bill 40...in Bill 41 (2025), starting with the Legislative Branch. We will review each department in total, including your proposed adjustments, priorities, starting with operations, followed by CIP grants, Revolving

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Funds, and rates and fees. So, we'll kind of go through our budget bills per department. After we review the department...department completely and taken up any reductions or deletions, I will ask for consensus on the department in total, and if there is cons...consensus, we will be done with that department for decisions. Okay. Member Paltin, Member Lee to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just wanted to confirm we're following past practice. Countywide is two or more districts?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Versus all? Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then on the certifications, I thought it was the 17th. So, are we getting the book on the 17th, and then we're going to go over the presentation on Monday? Is that how that works?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are taking up certification on the...I'm sorry, presentation from Finance RPT is on the 21st.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I heard that. I...I was wondering if...if we're getting this book on the 17th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's what you wanted. Yeah, one year, we didn't get it, and then after that, we did, right? So, I--Member--is that a question for Ms. Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Whoever knows the answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: When we're going to get the certification book?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I'm confirming that with Department of Finance right now, and I will get back to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let us know as soon as you know. We're all excited.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's always...that's always appreciated. Okay. And Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. When did you say we're taking up the Legislative Branch?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On...when we take...when we do decisions week. So--oh, you mean...you mean OCS as a department? Like finishing off it as a department . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I was thinking more of our indivi...Councilmember's accounts, there's a possibility to raise that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Then we're going to do that the following week when we're in decisions. Tomorrow, we're going to --

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- take up the Mayor's. We--one of the things that Member U'u-Hodgins brought up yesterday was that if we're thinking of increasing the pots, as I like to call them, the residency area pots, economic development pots, from 140 to whatever, we have to find out if OED can handle it with the number of grants, and how many--what that would do to their department, and I--that's a very good point. So, we'll find out tomorrow when Mayor's Office does come. We can ask them that question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But, however --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- the...those district grants don't necessarily have to fall under OED, do they?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right now, they're in the Mayor's Office.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's...it's --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- what if it's, you know, related to abandoned vehicles, or something else you know?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It would be another department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Interesting question if we want to move it. So, could--is Corp. Counsel here for the question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's a policy question, not a legal question.

MS. MILNER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MILNER: Sorry for interrupting. Would you mind if I addressed the question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

MS. MILNER: Okay. Thank you, Chair. What I would say, Chair Lee, is that if you wanted to use some of those funding for another purpose, such as abandoned vehicles, you could reduce the amount allocated under OED and move it to another department for that different purpose. But if it falls under the stated purpose of the OED economic

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development, cultural, and environmental grant funds, at this point, it should probably stay in OED. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. And there are a couple of grants that I...that I've listed actually don't fit under OED, but I...I know where it would fit. So, it's just a matter of identifying where the grants would go instead of, you know, assuming that they all would be handled by OED.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. And then--but that really wasn't my initial question. So, you're...you're saying that if we want to discuss an increase in our individual office accounts, that will come --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll talk about office accounts.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, but that's--I was talking about office accounts --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I know you brought up the district...you know, the district --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- grants --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- but then now we're done with that, we finished that one, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And so, initially, I was talking about the office accounts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, that's when I mentioned the Legisla...when are...when are we going to make...when are we going to deal with the Legislative Branch, and you said next week? Did you say next week?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, next week. So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Next...so...so --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we're --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- there's no particular deadline for that, it's just we can take it up when we take up the...the branch in our office accounts?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: When we start taking off...when we start taking up Bill 40...41, which is our Budget Bill, then we'll go through that and go through bills. Wait, hang on...yeah, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Lesley has the certification answer when you're ready.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you have books for us?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, I can't wave at you from here.

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

MS. MILNER: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yes, Finance let me know that the books will be delivered by midday on Thursday, the 17th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, okay. So, that'll be homework for you when we have our holiday, which is on the 18th.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you're going to let us have them when they come to us so we can look at them? Who--we're going to get them in our hands when they come?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, I wouldn't hold it. I don't--have no reason to. I think it's a good idea for you --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can I get that in writing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to be able to look at it. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other comments? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Chair Lee, the Council, which is us . . .*(laughing)*. . . you included, we...we develop the rules that we want to follow for our own internal process. So, if... . . .*(laughing)*. . . Tamara said that's very scary. So, if the, you know, strict two per district, three Countywide, priorities is not fitting your needs, you can pitch...or propose a different amount, and we can discuss and vote on it. So, just throwing that out for you to consider for your abandoned vehicles example, so that you don't have to stick it under the OED cultural and environmental fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I support it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I support it if you want to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But I...I just wanted to kind of know when the...what the schedule was so that I didn't miss a deadline, you know? Because, you know, you've...we've had a lot of deadlines to deal with, so I...I just don't want to miss anything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And you--so, it's next week, so we don't have to worry about any deadlines this week? We had our deadline on Monday, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(laughing)*. . . 17th, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we are --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But that was --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 17th, 4:00 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- that was revised --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think we have a deadline on the 17th at 4:30.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 17th, and that would be for the...the OED pot, whatever that is.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I thought next week Monday is the OED pot for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It is.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- decisions week. But the 17th is in two days.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. I'm sorry, wrong day, wrong day. No, no, no, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 17 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That is for next week because everybody wanted to have...Wailuku-Kahului to have your residency area meeting, so we moved it to next week Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the 17th is for you to turn in--where's my other calendar...sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our priority proposals.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, your priority proposals. And one of the things that I thought that we had said was that we had agreed on the Members to submit priorities, two residency area increases, five Countywide increases, two grant-related conditions, and two Revolving Fund conditions, and we are...we moved this, instead of by 9:00. We are going to have it at this--did we say at 4:00? 4:00 in the afternoon. So, this one we moved because of all the things going on tomorrow. So, this is at 4:00.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I just want to remind my colleagues that it's so easy to add to the budget, and it's much more challenging to trim.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. We need to trim.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But that's where our focus is going to be, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We're going to trim.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sharpen our little scissors.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Responsibly --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Members, right? And please know that as far as the priorities, I--we talked about this early on, and I thought we had come to a consensus that we're going to follow this. And if we all decide, eh, never mind, then we all become out of control, and I don't think it's fair for others who are following it. So, I hope that we are able to be consistent. Anything else? No, you are fine?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What's the deadline tomorrow? You said there's a deadline tomorrow. And I...I disagree --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that we would become out of control. Jeez, I think we're adults here.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(laughing)*. . . We're already out of control.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I...I just...I--tomorrow morning--tonight, we have our residency area meeting as we've been doing, right, because we all get home late, that tomorrow morning we start at 10:00. But we are taking up the departments that I mentioned, as...in...including we are going to discuss in general bills before us. And let's see...okay. So, before we leave all of this...okay, I'm going to take a little break. I'm going to come back at 4:06. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:           4:04 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE:       4:07 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay, Members. On...on today's agenda, we have Bill 15. Bill 15 is the Carryover/Savings, \$51 million that we got from Administration. And what the Administration has done is, they've included that 51 million in our current Budget Bill 41. So, we need to work on...address this. So, tomorrow, what I would like to know is instead of the meeting starting at 10:00, which...which all of you are available, I wonder if you wouldn't mind coming at 9:30. I'm going to recess this meeting because it's not on the agenda for tomorrow, and--but it is on today. So, I'm going to recess this, take it up tomorrow, and...and deal with it, and then we'll start with our 10:00 BFED meeting. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can I just move to file it right now and we'll come in at 10:00?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because you know those Pā'ia folks, they like to keep us long time, and it's over an hour to Nāpili.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member...Staff. James.

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MR. KRUEGER: Chair, Bill 15 is also posted on the Council meeting agenda this Thursday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we can take it up at Chair Lee's? Chair Lee, can we take it up in your meeting on the 17th?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...and then...okay. So, we won't take it up today...I mean, not today. We won't take it up tomorrow?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's up to you, but I'm not sure what...you know, I'm not sure what you want to do with it. What do you want to do with it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I want everybody to just talk about it, and then we can address it. Vote up, down.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What to do with it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, vote...vote it up or down.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Vote it up or down. So, you know, if we vote it up, that we're going to keep it, that means our budget is \$51 million. Yeah, it's been already incorporated into the existing budget that we are working with, Bill 41, so I'm just trying to address it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What...what did you mean by keep it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, it --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Bill 51 [sic] is live money to me because we got it as Carryover/Savings in Bill 51 [sic]...I'm sorry, in Bill 15, which is --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, we're going to talk about it? Are we talking about it right now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can....do you guys want to...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean...so, basically, if we don't file it, you also have to cut \$51 million from the budget on top of all the stuff that we want to add to the budget. So, I mean, I don't...I'm not...I'm not up for the heavy lifting this year --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- so have fun.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . It is a lot of money. Hang on, one second. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, yeah, that was the one that was tabled, right? You...you wanted to table...to take it up in your Committee, right? Is that the one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, Bill 15 has not come to your Committee...come to the Council yet. It only has come to BFED. It didn't...what you're going to...what you're going to deal with is...is the \$3 million of the Police Department, but not this.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Let...let's just talk --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That was tabled.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not with this.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- about it tomorrow. We'll talk about it tomorrow, 1:30, yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Do you guys want to...you want to recess until 1:30 tomorrow? Let's recess until 1:30.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I support that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to recess this meeting to 1:30, we'll talk about it, and then figure out what to do if we want to --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Same place.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- fuss around with it when --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Same place, same site. Same place.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Chair...Chair...or in Council.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Same place, same site.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Same place, same site.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Same--yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So 1:30 tomorrow, Bill 15, we're going to take up, okay?  
1...1:30 tomorrow, recess meeting. So, we'll continue this to 1:30 tomorrow, okay? Got  
it?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, yeah. So, just to clarify, the...the same meeting link as well. So, yeah,  
same in-person location --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Same--yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: -- the Chamber, and the same meeting link that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: -- that we used today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Got it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe we should make it at 9:00 because we got Ag, OCS, Mayor,  
Personnel. So, just make it at 9:00.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 9:00?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the people that --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm busy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- show up can be involved in the conversation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do you guys want to meet at 9:00, 9:30, 1:30?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 9:00 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 9:30?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 10:00. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we'll take it up in your Committee. Yes. I can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Up to you. Up...up to you.

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MS. KAWASAKI: Thank you, Chair. If you recess the meeting until 9:00 a.m., just as a reminder, this Committee will not be able to reconvene your regular--I mean, to convene your regular meeting until 10:00 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

MS. KAWASAKI: So, initially, your proposal was 9:30, just making sure that everyone is clear. If it's 9:00, and you finish up in half an hour, you'll be waiting until that 10:00 time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and if you make it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think that's why we wanted to meet at 9:30.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you make it at 1:30, then something's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We just --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- got to give. We can't do Ag, Personnel...or Ag, Mayor, and OCS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I vote for 1:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 1:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1:30 for you. 9:30 for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 9:00 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Let's pull straws. How about you, Member Kama? You --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm open. I...I don't really care. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mic, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Put your mic --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How about everybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You got to put on your mic.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sorry. I think we should reconvene at 9:00 a.m. to dispense with this...what we want to do. And then if--because I don't think we're going to get it done in half an hour. First, you got to come on time, and we got to have quorum.

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That doesn't happen right away, so I think we should just start at 9:00 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- end at five to 10:00 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- and then continue the 10:00 meeting, and then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're the deciding vote. Is that all right with you? Huh? Member Cook, what did you say? Member Cook, I didn't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He...he said he can agree to what Member Kama --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- at 9:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I will be online.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, you can be online. All right. Online, 9:00 tomorrow, this is a recess meeting, and then we have our regular meeting at 10:00. Okay? OCS Staff, you're fine?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Same place, same link.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Same place, same channel, same...same *Akakū* link, same online link. What else do --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Teams.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we need to say? Teams link, okay. Okay. And by the way, I got confirmation *Akakū* was listening to us last night from your meeting, and Chivo basically says that Moloka'i--those meetings were not live. Because I said, oh, no, you

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know, we're all not live? Because I didn't think the meetings--but your Kihei meeting was live, or the ones that are on...on *Akakū*, but not Moloka'i and --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It was livestreamed on Facebook.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But not *Akakū*.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, when you say live --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not *Akakū*.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you got to specify what live you mean, because it was live on Facebook --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not *Akakū*. I said not *Akakū*.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- because I was watching.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, let's go. Ready, set...this meeting is now in recess until tomorrow at 9:00. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 4:15 p.m.**

bfed:min:250415:lt

Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji



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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 128 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 14th day of May 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Logan Tsuji', is written over a horizontal line.

Logan Tsuji