

**MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**June 3, 2025
9:00 AM**

Pursuant to §92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the meeting was conducted as a remote meeting by interactive conference technology, via Microsoft Teams, <http://tinyurl.com/2p9zhjr2>.

In person testimony and viewing: Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building, 8th Floor, 200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii.

Video recording of meeting available at: www.mauicounty.legistar.com

TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:51 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember	Pres.	Abs.	Exc.	Time(s) In/Out (during meeting)
C Pro Tempore Tasha Kama			√	
Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura	√			
CM Tamara Paltin	√			
CM Gabe Johnson	√			
CM Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	√			
CM Tom Cook	√			
CM Nohelani U'u-Hodgins	√			
CM Shane Sinenci	√			
Chair Alice L. Lee	√			
TOTAL PRESENT	8		1	

ORDINANCES - SECOND AND FINAL READING:

Bill 41, CD1, FD1 (2025) "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025, TO JUNE 30, 2026"

Bill 42, CD1, FD1 (2025) "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026"

Bill 43, CD1 (2025) "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$138,187,284) AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO PAY ALL OR A PART OF THE COST OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS OF AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI; FIXING THE FORM, DENOMINATIONS, AND CERTAIN OTHER FEATURES OF SUCH BONDS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR SALE; AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO DETERMINE CERTAIN DETAILS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A LIKE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE COUNTY; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER ACTIONS RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE, SALE, AND DELIVERY OF SAID BONDS"

Bill 44, CD1 (2025) "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING THAT PART OF THE PROCEEDS OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI HERETOFORE ISSUED IS IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNTS REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH BONDS WERE INITIALLY ISSUED, OR MAY OR SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO THOSE PURPOSES, AND DIRECTING SUCH PROCEEDS TO OTHER PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS OR AUTHORIZED PURPOSES OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI"

Bill 45, CD1 (2025) "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR A LOAN FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII'S WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING FUND FOR VARIOUS WASTEWATER PROJECTS, FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE"

Bill 46, CD1 (2025) "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR A LOAN FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII'S WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING FUND FOR VARIOUS WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS, FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE"

Bill 48, CD1 (2025) "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.44.015, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO SALARIES OF DEPUTIES CORPORATION COUNSEL AND DEPUTIES PROSECUTING ATTORNEY"

Bill 50 (2025) "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 3.26, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO EMPLOYEE PARKING FEES FUND

	AYE	NO	EXC	Time Deliberations Began	10:08 a.m.
Pro Tem Kama	√			Time Motion Made	10:11 a.m.
VC Sugimura	√			Motion	PASS bills on second and final reading
CM Paltin	√			Maker	Sugimura
CM Johnson	√			Second	Rawlins-Fernandez
CM Rawlins-Fernandez			√	Time Vote Taken	10:37 a.m.
CM Cook			√		
CM U'u-Hodgins	√				
CM Sinenci			√		
Chair Lee	√				
TOTAL VOTES	6		3	MOTION PASSED	

	AYE	NO	EXC	Time Deliberations Began	10:12 a.m.
Pro Tem Kama			√	Time Motion Made	10:12 a.m.
VC Sugimura	√			Motion	AMEND Bill 41
CM Paltin	√			Maker	Sugimura
CM Johnson	√			Second	Cook
CM Rawlins-Fernandez	√			Time Vote Taken	10:15 a.m.
CM Cook	√				
CM U'u-Hodgins	√				
CM Sinenci	√				
Chair Lee	√				
TOTAL VOTES	8		1	MOTION PASSED	

	AYE	NO	EXC	Time Deliberations Began	10:16 a.m.
Pro Tem Kama			√	Time Motion Made	10:16 a.m.
VC Sugimura	√			Motion	AMEND Bill 41
CM Paltin	√			Maker	Rawlins-Fernandez
CM Johnson	√			Second	Sinenci
CM Rawlins-Fernandez	√			Time Vote Taken	10:18 a.m.
CM Cook	√				
CM U'u-Hodgins	√				

CM Sinenci	√				
Chair Lee	√				
TOTAL VOTES	8		1	MOTION PASSED	

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:38 a.m.

TRANSCRIPTION

Council of the County of Maui on 2025-06-03 9:00 AM - Special Meeting

[GAVEL] >> Will the Special Council Meeting of June 3rd, 2025 please come to order. Ms. Clerk. >> Thank you, Chair. Proceeding with roll call, Members participating remotely, if you could please let us know who if anyone except minor is present with you. Pro Tempore Tasha Kama. >> Excused.\r\n\r\n>> Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura. >> Good morning, Chair, looking forward to a productive meeting. >> Council Member Tamara Paltin. >> Aloha Kakahiaka. And namaste kakou, I have one unnamed minor canine with me and the other two unnamed minors flew the coop. >> Council Member Gabe Johnson. >> Aloha, Chair, Council Members, community members.\r\n\r\n\r\nNamaste, there's no testifier as the Lana'i District Office and I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo. >> Council Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. >> Aloha Kakahiaka kakou. There are currently no testifiers at the Moloka'i District Office. Happy to be here in person, mahalo, Chair. >> Council Member Tom Cook.\r\n\r\n\r\n>> Aloha, good morning. Namaste, there's currently no testifiers at the Kihei District office, and I'm ready for round 2. >> Council Member Nohelani Uu-Hodgins. >> Aloha, Chair, and everyone. Again, I'm still at my private residence with the same three kids running around. >> Council Member Shane Sinenci? >> Aloha Kakahiaka, Chair and namaste to everyone. Happy to be here and no testifiers in Hana.\r\n\r\n\r\n>> And Council Chair Alice Lee. >> I forgot to mention earlier namaste means "I bow to you." And I'm Alice Lee, I'm present with, let's see, four, five of my chickadees running around. >> Chair, I just see Council Member Gabe Johnson making his way in. >> Present. >> Hello again >> Thank you. >> Chair, you have eight Members present, one Member is excused. And for the record, I'm County Clerk Moana Lutey and seated next to me is Deputy County Clerk Richelle Thomson and from legislative division Staff, Joyce Murashige, Lauren Saldana, Dell Yoshida and Arthur Suyama.\r\n\r\n\r\nJoining is Director David Raatz and legislative Attorney with him is Peter Hirona, from the Department of Corporation Counsel is first Deputy Mimi Desjardins and Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristina Toshikiyo. >> Members, before we proceed with public testimony, may I please request that everyone keep their microphones muted unless it's your turn to speak. As a reminder, testimony must pertain to items on the agenda, when testifying please direct your remarks to the Council, and not to any individual Council Member, or Member of the public. Each testifier will be allowed to speak up to three minutes on each item. For individuals wishing to testify on teams, please click the raise your hand button to be added to the log. If you are calling in, please follow the phone prompts to be added to the testifier log. As noted in the prior meeting, decorum shall be maintained at all times.\r\n\r\n\r\nMs. Clerk, please proceed. >> At this time individuals may testify on any item listed on today's agenda. The first testifier is Noelani Furtado Gasbar testifying on Bill 41 and she will be followed by Denai Marin. >> Aloha Mai kakou. My name is Leolani Furtado Gasbar and I'm testifying in support of the line item for the County budget. A little background about miff, I'm the Director of Cultural education at Kahu and I plan, executive and facilitate anything programmatic, which is usually school groups and Halau Mana that comes to us teachers doing Professional Development and cultural competency training and Workshops.\r\n\r\n\r\nI have been involved since 2016 and I came in Hei Mana and it was my first summer job and from 2020 I have been working there consistently. I just wanted to share our numbers with you. The last two years the amount of people that we served was 1707. And this year we're currently at 1666. So I predict by the end of the year, we'll probably double

our numbers and I think that is just a testament of the amount of traction that we have been getting, and I just want to thank you guys, because there's no way we could do the work that we do without your support and our community's support. When we have Hamana that come, they are primarily half our numbers. As of right now 886 of those numbers were Hamana, kids in our School Districts and kids in our private schools. When they come, they get a full rounded cultural education and we split it into three categories, Malama 'aina which is learning to care for the lands and I cane Hawai'i, which is just knowledge of Hawai'i, and mol yellow is fun craft learning to utilize the resources that we have on property. I just want to say thank you guys for your guys' support and support of our line item.\r\n\r\nMahalo. >> Thank you for your testimony. Any questions, Members? If not, play we have the next testifier. >> Chair, the next testifier is Danae Marin, followed by Keola Tengan, both testifying on Bill 41. >> Aloha Mai kakou, Council Members. Mahalo for hearing us this morning. I came to mahalo you all for the work you are doing.\r\n\r\nMy name is Denay Marin, my position and my title is the Director of Community engagement at Kahu. I have been there a little over a year and three months. I have served for over 15 years in this community, it's very special. Particularly with the areas of Youth Services, and community engagement. I have held many positions, but this by far is one of the most important positions I have ever signed on to and I'm here to talk about that today and ask for your continued support for us as a line item. I kind of hope I wouldn't have to be here today, but it's important for us to follow through on the things that we set out to intend to make a difference in our community, and basically, the way that I'm dressed and I'm here like this, I have a group from UH Manoa on 'aina and hosting them for one week straight. It's a solid cohort and these are our future leaders connecting them to Aloha 'aina.\r\n\r\nThat is my job. The title is the title, but the real work is in the privilege of being the Kihei, the persons that are here to really make an impact. Talking about being able to take action at a moment's notice. We switch our roles from Administrators to Aloha 'aina workers, the reason I'm dressed this way because I'm here in the role of that, not only am I doing all administrative duties to ensure that we have community connection, but I will go out and help clear hau and make sure that invasives are gone, while teaching the youth and while helping to facilitate groups and while greeting Pilina and advocating to empower others to do this important work. We steward over 64 acres. It's very important, and I'm going to tell you some of the groups that we had the privilege -- I have had the privilege to bring in and work with. We have 'aina texture, good friend of mine and the reason I'm able to really continue in those numbers that Lohi gave you is happening in these partnerships.\r\n\r\nThese partnerships don't just appear on our doorstep. I go out and we create them as a team. This is us connecting to the community bringing them to this resource and in turn making sure it's a coastal wetland that is engaged and active and that we have Kalo that is growing that wasn't there a year-ago. We're restoring many, many acres and many different places. I have a list of ten places just Hui Malama loko Kalama, Kamehameha, Pacific collective Seabury Hall initiatives Kaku Keahi youth in West Maui, Hawai'i Taro farm living pono UH Maui College Hawaiian botany UH Manoa. >> Time. >> Pacific Foundation, shark castics, privateer group, Hawai'i Department of Education supplement we're going to be hosting them.\r\n\r\nThere's over 3,000 plants that we have put back into the 'aina, over 3,000 that were not there a year-ago throughs they nurturing and greenhouse program we have established. We're and round 8 of the new nursery and greenhouse, all go to not only Kaiahu, but especially West Maui. We work really hard at what you do, just

as you do, and I really appreciate you guys respecting that, and helping us to Malama Ka'ehu. I ask for your continued support and thank you for time today. >> Thank you. Members, any questions? If not, thank you very much.\r\n\r\n>> Chair, currently the last testifier signed up to testify is Keola Tengan, testifying on Bill 41. >> Aloha, Chair, Aloha Council Members. School is out and hence I have these guys with me. As you can see we're a truly passionate -- that has been coming in from the County. I think everything that needs to be said has been said, but I just wanted to share a couple of stories that my sons will share, just to put things into context. By the way, the camping trip, my neck is kind of out, so I will be kind of rigid. So I will let them take the stand. However, I wanted to share a couple of stories because I didn't get into Lohi until I was 35 and both of my boys have been since age 3 on.\r\n\r\nTake it away, guys. >> So at night-time there's lots of toads and frogs, and they come out a lot at night, and sometimes they are poisonous. >> I don't know, older brother will take it. >> When you go camping there, definitely do not go into the waters sometimes because there are definitely sharks and mano war. >> So put that into context, we just started a water hydrology study. I have been in the bay the last month or so, twice. So we're looking at just having a better feel of the water flow.\r\n\r\nSo we can do long-term Planning in terms of outcropping as was mentioned putting a lot of native plants into the ground and community and just want to have as much information to Kilo and provide for better long-term planning. So I just wanted to thank the Council for your support ongoing and just to let you know we're really just getting started. Mahalo >> Very good. Very good. Thank you. Bye. Take care of daddy.\r\n\r\nMs. Clerk. >> Chair, there's no one else currently signed up to testify. So this will be last call. And I see Mr. Lau making his way down. If there's anyone else, this is your opportunity.\r\n\r\n>> Aloha kakou, again. Just to correction on the Hawaiian word of the day, uncle Don told me it was that word didn't make sense. So trying for Makani, which means "wind." Makani Makai means good wind. To stick to the agenda thing, it's about all these bonds and stuff and I yet to see -- can I buy a bond? Where do I buy one? And I guess it's backed by the U.S. treasury. And I'm just trying to figure this whole thing out, because I know King Kaha'u had money made for Hawai'i. So when does the Hawai'i part come into the equation?\r\n\r\nAnd I like to see somebody print some Hawaiian money, and I have one idea with the bus, maybe, to prevent the federals from coming in, messing with us, we could just start with bus tokens with Kamehameha on there and start from there. >> Thank you. Ms. Clerk. >> Chair, the Royal House of Hawai'i has signed up as well. >> Aloha. I'm here to testify on this, and as a allodial heir/tenant and Descendant descendant, there was any discussion with the heirs and descendants of all the royal patents because Hawai'i is all Royal Patented.\r\n\r\nAnd that everything that is here is made from here, everybody needs the water, and everybody needs the shelter to create businesses and whatever it may be. And we are the beneficiaries of everything here. And we need to protect our spaces even with just like Kilauea, finding gold and precious metals. Yeah, I don't know, we used to eat the gold. Anyway, if all of the descendants of the Royal Patents can be called up, and discussed with, because this is all of our lands, and there has been no discussion with any of us. All of the living kanaka are the heirs and descendants of each Royal Patent because every kanaka 'Ohana is connected with Royal Patent, and that would help a lot with the Housing crisis, and the Housing crisis, and please follow Kamehameha III's records and if you need the list of descendants who can make the government, I can guy the list. I'm sorry so sorry I forgot to send the list, but I will send it right after

this.\r\n\r\nAnd if I could have a response, also. And to call the descendants again, because they're the beneficiaries of everything. And yeah, that is it. Thank you. >> Thank you. Thank you. Members, do you have any questions?\r\n\r\nIf not, thank you very much. May we have the next testifier, please. >> Chair, there's no one else currently signed up to testify. If there is anybody who would like to testify, this is last call. And the countdown is 3, 2, 1. Chair, there's no one else indicating a desire to testify. >> Members, any objections to closing public testimony, and accepting written testimony into the record? >> No objections.\r\n\r\n>> So ordered. Ms. Clerk. >> Chair, we're on Ordinances for second and final reading Bill 41, CD 1, FD 1 (2025) a Bill for an Ordinance relating to the Operating Budget for the County of Maui for the Fiscal Year July 1,2025 to June 30, 2026. >> Vice-Chair Sugimura. >> Chair, if there's no objections to please ask the Clerk to call and the ether bills up for second and final reading on the agenda. >> Members, any objections? So ordered.\r\n\r\nMs. Clerk. >> Chair, before you is Bill 41, CD 1, FD 1 (2025) a Bill for an Ordinance relating to the Capital Program for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026. Brill 43 FD 1 (2025) a Bill for an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$138,187,284 aggregate Principal amount of General Obligation Bonds for the County of Maui for a purpose of providing funds to pay all or a part of the cost of appropriations for the public improvements and for the County of Maui fixing the form, denominations and certain other features of such bonds and providing for their sale, authorizing the Director of Finance to determine certain details of the bonds, authorizing the issuance and sale of a like Principal amount of general obligation bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the refunding General Obligation Bonds of the County of Maui and providing for other actions relating to the issuance sale and delivery of said bonds. Bill 44 CD 1 (2025) a Bill for an Ordinance determining the part of the proceeds for General Obligation Bonds for the County of Maui heretofore issued is in excess of the amounts required for purposes of which such bonds were initially issued or may or should not be applied to those purposes and directing certain proceeds to other public improvements or authorizing purposes of the County of Maui. Bill 45 CD 1 (2025), a Bill for an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the County of Maui to enter into a Intergovernmental Agreement for the loan from the State of Hawaii's water pollution control revolving fund for various wastewater projects Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Ordinance. Bill 46 CD 1 (2025) a Bill for an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the County of Maui to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for a loan from Hawaii's water pollution control revolving fund for various water supply projects Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Ordinance. Bill No.\r\n\r\n48 CD 1 (2025) a Bill for an Ordinance amending section 2.44.015 Maui County Code relating to salaries of Deputies Corporation Counsel and Deputies Prosecuting Attorney and Bill 50 (2025) a Bill for an Ordinance repealing Chapter 3.26 Maui County Code relating to employee Parking Fees Fund. >> Vice-Chair Sugimura. >> I move to pass Bills on second and final reading Bill 41, CD 1, FD 1 (2025), Bill 42 CD 1, FD 1 (2025), Bill 43 CD 1 (2025), Bill 44 CD 1 (2025), Bill 45 CD 1 (2025), Bill 46 CD 1 (2025), Bill 48 CD 1 (2025) and Bill 50 (2025). >> Second. >> Moved by Vice-Chair Sugimura, seconded by Member Rawlins-Fernandez to pass the bills as listed as mentioned on second and final reading, discussion Member Sugimura. >> I would like to move to amend Bill 41. I move to amend section 3b5 Department of Environmental Management environmental protection and sustainability program environmental protection and sustainability fund as follows: reduction grant to Malama Maui Nui by \$75,000 to \$155,500, and striking the condition and adding a new appropriation entitled " grant to Nakaya

Manu conservation, Inc. in amount of \$75,000" with the following condition up to \$75,000 must be for the Kula community watershed alliance for revegetation, revegetating and reforesting the Kula burn scar provided that Nakaya Manu conservation, Inc. receives 1:1 matching funds from the Community Foundation prior to the release of the County funds.\r\n\r\nThis item can be found on page 8 of Bill 41. >> Is there a second for that? Moved by Vice-Chair Sugimura, seconded by Member Tom Cook to make the change as explained in discussion. Vice-Chair. >> Thank you. So this doesn't make any financial changes to the budget. But through our research and the nonprofits and its capabilities. The Kula Watershed alliance came forward and they can use these funds will be a match of about \$300,000, \$150,000 total with us and the Hawai'i Community Foundation and the match from the Kula Watershed group is going to be for another \$300,000. >> No change to the budget.\r\n\r\n>> No change to the budget. >> Any more discussion? Member Paltin. >> Has Malama Nui been contacted about this Ching. change? >> Yes, and the reason we made this change because the intent of the appropriation, they do not give out grants or help the community in that way, but they do provide services. So I did clarify it before we reached out to the Kula Watershed community alliance group.\r\n\r\n>> And they told me that the decrease in funding September going to affect their operations Malama Maui Nui? >> No, this is it's a completely different type of services that we were asking them to do. In fact, even Hawai'i Community Foundation asked us to be sure whoever we can give this money could be able to utilize it in the way that we had intended. >> I just want to clarify that Malama Maui Nui said that this decrease won't affect their operations. >> Yes. >> They have a not do this yes, why he. >> They told it won't affect their operations.\r\n\r\n>> Yes. >> Okay, any more questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez. >> Mahalo, Chair. Did we get the ASF? For this Amendment? >> I didn't prepare an ASF -- did Staff prepare an ASF for this?\r\n\r\n>> Did you ask them to? >> We talked about it. >> Okay >> I believe there's one somewhere floating around because I reviewed it. I don't know where it is. >> Can we request it then? >> It's fine, I will support this. Thank you.\r\n\r\n>> Thank you. any more discussion? If not, all those in favor of the motion, please raise your hand, say aye? >> Aye. >> We have eight ayes, zero nos. One excused. Pro Tem Kama.\r\n\r\nMotion carries. Any more Amendments? Member Rawlins-Fernandez? >> Mahalo, Chair. I move to amend Bill 41. >> Second. >> Mahalo, Member Sinenci. To reduce account b by \$2,000 from Moloka'i Art Center, Inc.\r\n\r\nand \$10,000 from Malama 'aina and find under the Office of the Mayor, line 12, c Economic Development Program, that 21 Moloka'i Economic Development, Environmental, and Cultural Programs and d, amend it from 2,000 to 18,000 for Moloka'i Art Centers, Inc. and G-up to 80,000 instead of 90,000 for 'aina momuna, and 2, to amend Bill 41 to increase account b by \$12,000 under the Department of Human concerns, human concerns programs, grants and disbursements for health, human services and education, up to \$12,000 for Holli Hua Homesteaders Association for Huli Hua Homesteaders Association for utilities, Supplies, equipment, and furniture and then to amend, and to renumber the subsequent lines. That is my full motion. Mahalo, Chair. >> Moved by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, seconded by Member Shane Sinenci to amend Bill 41 as shown on the ASF that was distributed. Discussion, Member Rawlins-Fernandez? >> Mahalo, Chair.\r\n\r\nThis request came in a little later, and the veterans Association is new, and they're trying to get off the ground. They made that request, and I'm hoping that you folks will support this. Mahalo, Chair. >> It was just moving monies around, but no change to the actual budget. >> Correct. And it's General Fund. So we wouldn't need to make any corresponding Amendments to the other bills.\r\n\r\n>>

Okay. Any more discussion, Members? Member Paltin. >> Just checking if we had talked to human concerns about that? >> Member Rawlins-Fernandez. >> Mahalo for that question, Member Paltin. I did not, because the grants used to be under management and I contacted the wrong Department.\r\n\r\nSo I will reach out to them. >> Okay. >> Any more questions? If not, all those in favor of the motion, please raise your hand, say aye? >> Aye. >> We're looking eight ayes, zero nos. One excused.\r\n\r\nMember Kama. Now do we have any more -- thank you, Member Nohe. Okay. I thought that was a long aye. That was a long aye. So now -- >> Thank you for your strong support, Member Uu-Hodgins. [Laughter] >> Okay.\r\n\r\nSo now we have getting down to the issue of voting on the budget. So any more discussion? On the two Amendments? Well, on Member Rawlins-Fernandez Amendment? I did take this vote already. Yes, that is right. You threw me off.\r\n\r\nOkay. >> I have that effect [LAUGHTER]. >> Any more Amendments before we vote on the budget? Any more discussion? Okay. We're going to vote on the main motion as amended. So discussion? Vice-Chair Sugimura.\r\n\r\n>> I wanted to, Chair, give some remarks, if you would allow me to do it now or after we vote? >> After we vote would be good. >> Okay. up to you. >> Okay. Anybody else? This is before we vote, discussion?\r\n\r\nThe main motion as amended. Member Paltin. >> Why don't you want her to give her discussion before we vote? >> It might be long. [Laughter] just trying to be efficient. >> It might affect how I vote. >> It might affect how you vote?\r\n\r\n>> I hope not, it's about us. >> Do you want to hear the remarks about the whole -- I'm sure about the whole process, and so forth, it's not necessarily on 41 and the rest of the Budget Bills; right? Am I right? >> Do we have to stay to listen to her say it? Like, if we vote then we can leave and we don't have to -- we're going to have to listen to her say it either way; right? So I don't understand. >> Okay.\r\n\r\nLet's not belabor this. Vice-Chair Sugimura, what is your discussion? >> Okay. Chair Lee and Members of the Council, before we pass second and final reading today, I wanted to express my gratitude to everyone who worked tirelessly to get on -- to get us here. Thank you to our BFED Staff, especially Kristen Szabo, James Krueger, Clarissa Mac Donald, Peter Hinano for your dedication, I can't tell you how many meetings they sat through as we talked about the budget. I also thank, I also like to thank the analysts and Secretary for their help with the meetings and documents and proceedings, as you know, the District, the residency area meetings did take notes and it's not part of the Committee Report I'm adding it as a formal document for their hard work. Jeanne Ryan, thanks for assisting us every day and thanks to the management team for their guidance and thank to our very special Corp.\r\n\r\nCounsel Kristina Toshikiyo who is here with us in the Chambers. I know the bright lights are not very good for you, so thank you for making that sacrifice. We really appreciate your wisdom and also budget Director Leslie Milner, who was with us at one time, but is in the Administration side that helps us to work together very smoothly. We appreciate your dedication in providing us with timely documents and assistance. And to the Finance Director Marcy Martin and RTP t Administrator Carey stock well-for their commitment to community and for coming to the residency area meetings so that in case anybody had questions like what you heard to about Real Property Tax, assessments or bills in their assessments in general they were there with us. In person, I also appreciate Mayor Bissen, Josiah Nishita, the Department Directors and their Staff for their help and participation in shaping the Fiscal Year 26 budget and also special thanks to my Staff Michele Yoshimura, Jordan Hilley and Jennifer Matsumoto, and lastly, I want it thank the fellow members, my fellow members and their Staff for their hard work and dedication

to our community. I respect your input and commitment to Maui County.\r\n\r\nIt was a lot of work. This year's budget session was shaped by economic uncertainty, wildfire recovery and growing community needs. Inflation and federal tariffs have driven up the cost of living especially for our working families and Kupuna on fixed incomes shifting federal priorities have added even more uncertainty to our long-term recovery efforts. Like our community, we came together with the goal of supporting both immediate recovery and longstanding needs. And this work was not done in isolation. We held listening sessions in every residency area and conducted online surveys. The message was very clear, housing is a high expense, and top priority, services are stressed -- stretched thin, real property valuations are climbing, while incomes are not, and families need help.\r\n\r\nSo address these challenges we supported the Kama'aina credit program, with \$12 million appropriation thanks to Member Johnson and funded the Lappola apartments to create housing for the mission middle and also adjusted Real Property Tax rates for non-resident and tourism-based classification to align tax rates with people's ability to pay the services provided. Housing remains a top priority. We funded the LaPolle and Kaiaulu Department rental assistance program and housing for wildfire survivors, but housing is about more than just building. It's about people and community. That is why we also increased funding for mental health services, harm reduction and initiatives to keep our neighbors safe and clean. We affirmed our community to culture and our keiki by supporting early childhood care, STEM works, Performing Arts travel assistance for youth good rural areas and also strengthened our support for agriculture local food systems with grants to crop restoration and local food productions to build resilience and diversify our economy. We addressed the ongoing feral animal crisis with increased support for Maui Humane Society and to axis deer and other invasive species.\r\n\r\nTo fulfill our 600 County vacancies we invested in improving HR systems compensation and retention and we set aside \$15 million for potential supplemental agreements for our hard-working County employees and \$ 7.4 million to compensate our Firefighters for their essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic and they were the last service group that we needed to compensate for COVID. Turning to infrastructure, we focused on roads, water, wastewater and public facilities especially where housing growth and environmental needs are urgent. In light of our economic uncertainty, we shifted some Capital Improvement Projects from General Fund to bond financing, to preserve liquidity and ensure flexibility, for the future. This budget reflects our commitment to resilience, fiscal responsibility and serving the people of Maui County. This motion wasn't easy. It took tough conversations, long days and difficult decisions and to everyone who contributed, whether you helped develop the budget, testify or supported us behind-the-scenes your contributions were essential and deeply appreciated. Thank you, Chair.\r\n\r\n>> Thank you. >> Thank you. Member Paltin. >> Thank you. I don't believe that is accurate the \$15 million for the supplemental agreements. I don't know where you got your data from? But I don't believe that is accurate.\r\n\r\n>> Okay, any more comments or discussion? >> I'm open to letting her say where she got her data from, but that is not accurate information. >> I got that from Staff. So the \$15 million that was put in there, I think the Department, or Administration said they could use I think they started off with \$10 million when they first testified for health benefits for the employees. So that amount was taken from that. And then I think through first reading it changed to maybe \$8 million. Is Staff here to verify that?\r\n\r\nBaize Chair Lee cut \$5 million at first reading, if you recall. >> Yes. Director, Budget Director. Milner. >> Thank you, Chair. Thank you,

Council Member Paltin. Yes, \$5 million was cut from the fringe benefit line item, but not specifically cut from the supplemental agreement.\r\n\r\nSo the \$15 million number, I believe that is where Vice-Chair got it from. >> Chair? Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. >> Mahalo, Chair. To clarify, Member Paltin and the public, so the request was made to amend the condition to \$10 million instead of the \$15 million and because we choose not to specifically cut that area, if we didn't amend that condition leaving the expected \$15 million in there for that purpose, with the caveat that if there isn't enough funding, then we may need to consider a Budget Amendment in FY'26. So that we can cover all of the costs necessary. So you're correct, but also there's that understanding that it may be in there for \$15 million. Because that wasn't Chair Lee's intention to reduce the \$5 million from that condition for the medical insurance.\r\n\r\nMahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Member Paltin. >> Thank you for that clarification. >> Thank you. There was a lot of intense discussion on it back and forth. It wasn't a simple discussion, but in the end, in the end, what I really appreciated was everybody's effort to collaborate, compromise, everybody gave up something, we all did. I really appreciate that, because that is where the hard part comes in.\r\n\r\nAny more discussion, Members? Yes, Member Johnson. >> Thank you, Chair. I know Council Member Sugimura thanked a lot of folks, a lot of folks who worked on this and I want to thank my colleagues, long nights, grumbling bellies, maybe grumbling mouths some time, I'm guilty as charged. I just want to say put all of that aside and I'm proud of a lot of these things that we did for this budget. The Kama'aina credit and Alice population in our community is really suffering. And it's growing, and the fact that we did something about it makes my heart swell with pride.\r\n\r\nSo I want to thank all of the Council Members who supported that to move it forward. And thank you Maui United Way for being a solid partner on it. I was very proud of this budget before we took the cuts. The cuts make me a little bit salty, but you know, like we say, we compromised. I get it, but at the end of the day, maybe there's times that we could look at reviewing the process. So it doesn't have to be this way, or if it does, be ready for it. I don't know.\r\n\r\nI'm just trying to be, you know, you have an experience, you reflect on it and you learn from it, and maybe moving forward, we could come up with something that is a little bit less frustrating for me personally. The Sunshine Law prohibits a lot of Pre-discussion, so we're kind of stuck with that. But what we can do within the lane? I think maybe the Mayor could help us on this, you know? The fact that we have no way -- like maybe the Mayor could work with us a little bit better? We have no way of knowing what other Members are priorities until the very last moment and if the Mayor could give us a lane to walk through that I think that could be something we could look at. If I always support keeping taxes low on our working-class folks.\r\n\r\nWe don't want to tax our working-class out of the homes. I also want to remind everybody and I say it every time, I know I am a broken record, but we have the lowest property taxes in the nation and there's a lot of wealthy folks here who could pay more in property taxes. I live on the Island of Lana'i, with what? So I'm sure Mr. Ellison could pay more in property tax. I was just saying I think the idea of a fiscally responsible budget is nice, but also not at the cost of our workforce, you know? Of our working-class people of the people who live here who have generational knowledge general experiences here and sometimes we have to take -- we have to lien in to help those folks who need it the most.\r\n\r\nThat is why I always kind of try to look through the lens on that. Those are my remarks. I just want to thank everybody for all your hard work. Mahalo, Chair. >> Thank you. Member Sinenci. >> Thank you,

Chair.\r\n\r\nI, too, wanted to extend my gratitude to the BFED Staff, my fellow colleagues during this entire process. As well as Director Milner for helping us, and all of the Staff. I also, Chair, wanted to thank all of the people that came out during our District visits. We definitely heard from our constituents very loudly, very clear, that you know, they wanted this budget to be an investment into our people. So we heard it, we heard it everywhere we went. So I did want to thank them for coming out during those nights in our Districts. The current Administration in Washington has full assault on DEI, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and that is us, we're the most diverse state in the entire union.\r\n\r\nSo having -- it's an insult to a lot of our generations of Kupuna that fought for equality against injustices and for rights to just exist here in our state. So I'm hoping that another question that came up, people asked, why did we increase the Mayor's budget? And I think it was for this very purpose, our local nonprofits provide those direct services in our communities, and so, and our County funds often leverage for those State and Federal funding. At this point those grants are currently being cut, if they haven't already been cut. So putting in these extra protections will help, you know, directly the people in our individual communities. The Governor's eviction moratorium lift has put many working families with children, housing insecure, we hear that it's just a month to month and now that people will have to pay after the moratorium lift and we also heard from last month during the WASSAP Committee, it's children, Kupuna and veterans and families in the lower AMIs that are most at-risk of becoming homeless and we see that homeless number continuing to grow in our County, as well as our neighboring Counties. So Chair, I believe the budget should reflect the values of our people.\r\n\r\nI don't think those values are giving, you know, the wealthy or people with second homes tax breaks while our people suffer just trying to get a home here. So as policymakers moving forward, I hope that we can discourage that act of -- that practice of foreign investments in our community and instead invest in housing our people, Chair. Those are my remarks. Thank you. >> Thank you. Anybody else? If not, all those in favor of the motion, the main motion as amended, please raise your hand and say aye.\r\n\r\nneight ayes, zero nos, one excused. Member Kama. Motion carries. Congratulations, Members! It was a rough road and here we are. >> Ms. Clerk, do we have any last-minute things to do?\r\n\r\n>> No, Chair, that's it. >> Okay. We do have a lunch after this in the back. And we also have another Council Meeting on June 6th. So this was on the Special meeting was only to deal with second and final reading for the budget. Thank you everybody. Thank you, Staff.\r\n\r\nThank you, community. Thank you everyone. This meeting is adjourned. [GAVEL] >> Thank you, Chair. Thank you.