

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

MINUTES

April 16, 2026

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 1:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair (arrived at 1:33 p.m.)
Councilmember Kauanoë Batangan, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member (left at 4:00 p.m.)
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

ADMIN.: Kristie Wigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Shayne Agawa, Director, Department of Environmental Management
Michael Petersen, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Management
Cecile Powell, Environmental Protection and Sustainability Manager, Department
of Environmental Management
Eric Nakagawa, Wastewater Reclamation Division Chief, Department of
Environmental Management
Marcy Glassford, Administrative Officer, Department of Environmental
Management
Michael Kehano, Solid Waste Division Chief, Department of Environmental
Management
Troy Kahalekai, Solid Waste Operations Program Superintendent, Department of
Environmental Management
William Jay, Environmental Program Specialist, Environmental Protection and
Sustainability Division, Department of Environmental Management
Chastiny Greig, Economic Development Specialist, Office of the Mayor

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

April 16, 2026

Emily Bartow, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Mayor
Kekai Robinson, Deputy Director, Department of 'Ōiwi Resources
Susan Burke, Secretary, Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division,
Department of Environmental Management

OTHERS: Hallie Hunt
Ali McKeon
Terah Tsuyako Summers
Oni Foundation (David Whitney)
Kalae (Oni Foundation)
Kuulei Pridgen (Oni Foundation)
Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii
William Spence
Andrea Buckman
Travis Aaron Liggett
Scott Werden
Lucienne de Naie
Gretchen Losano
Royal House of Hawai'i
Christopher Salem
Jasee Law
Others (21)

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

ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BILL 55 (2026), BILL 56 (2026), BILL 57 (2026), BILL 58 (2026), BILL 59 (2026), BILL 60 (2026), BILL 61 (2026), BILL 62 (2026), BILL 63 (2026), BILL 64 (2026), BILL 66 (2026), BILL 67 (2026), and RESOLUTION 26-63)

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .(*gavel*). . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting of April 16, 2026, come to order. It is 1:05 p.m. I am the Vice-Chair of this Committee, Kauanoe Batangan, and I will be acting as Chair for today's meeting. This online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. As a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name, who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura will be joining us a little bit late. Next up, we have Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good afternoon, Chair. Welcome all.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District office, and I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo.

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good afternoon, Chair. I'm home. I'm here in my...my office in the building with my little kitty named Jill Lee, and she's playing with her friend Matilda. Ready to work. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha auinalā, streaming live and direct from the Council Chambers.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Chair. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District office. And mahalo, again, to Member Johnson and to the Committee on Lānaʻi for hosting us last night.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha and good afternoon, Chair. I'm here at my home office. I'm here by myself. And there's no testifiers in Hāna.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And Councilmember Nohelani Uʻu-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Good afternoon, Chair. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm at my private residence. I do have my husband, William Koa Hodgins, home with me now, but he would be leaving shortly to pick up our child from school, and at that time I will have a miniature version of my husband and the big version.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you, Members. Assisting with today's meeting are the BFED Committee Staff. And our invited resource persons from the Administration include the Budget Director, Director of Environmental Management and his staff, and Deputy Corporation Counsel Wrigglesworth. Everybody, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED Committee meeting. We have one item on the agenda today, that is BFED-1, the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget For The County Of Maui. Members, I will be taking testimony after opening comments today. Before we begin, I would like to recognize Councilmembers Cook and Johnson for comments on the South Maui and Lānaʻi residency area meetings respectively. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you all for coming to our South Maui community meeting. Mahalo in welcoming us at the budget meeting last...night before last. Here's a summary containing some testimony highlights for your consideration and use and your recap of BFED day after tomorrow morning. Twenty eight individuals testified orally. We also received some written testimony. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Testifiers expressed

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

April 16, 2026

gratitude and support for the funding for a variety of organizations, including Maui A.I.D.S. Foundation: wraparound services, including homelessness prevention, sexually transmitted disease education and free testing, insurance assistance, medical clinic, food pantry, housing case management, jail outreach; MEO: transportation services, Spanish translation services; Head Start youth services; also Maui Green and Beautiful - Citizens Forestry Project; and the Ka'ahumanu Church restoration. The church is on the National Historic Register [sic] part of the royal compound of Kealiki II [sic], built in 1876, needing restoration. The kahu shared that the ground floor is completed and the upper station...upper stories still need work. Maui Nui Marine Resource Council: restore healthy coral reefs, protect natural fish, monitor water quality, reef landscaping program for hotels. The 'Āinakūko'a O Waihukuli Kai [sic] cares for two waterways, restores wetlands and native plants, provides keiki education, instills cultural and traditional values. The Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center: education to restore ocean health, marine conservation, sea turtle rehabilitation, coral restoration, provides volunteer and career opportunities. Maui Mediation Services: pre-eviction mediation, conflict resolution, parenting plans, child custody disputes, collections. Boys and Girls Club of Maui: Club on the Go program, Wellness Department to address behavioral challenges, workforce development; also Project Vision Hawai'i - increasing access to health and human services. In addition, several individuals asked for South Maui infrastructure improvements: including completing the North-South Collector Road, taking over the Wailuku Water System, acquiring wetlands for preservation, and addressing the Cove Park injection well ocean pollution. In general, it was a very well-attended meeting, and I thought our community spoke out in favor of all the nonprofits. It made me feel really good, the amount of money that we're allocating is appropriate and doing a really good service. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And the first word that comes to my word is the Japanese word of *otsukaresama*, which means thank you for all of your hard work, Members. So I really appreciate you guys coming to Lāna'i, and I can give a quick summary and *otsukaresama*. On April 15th, the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a Budget Residency Area meeting on Lāna'i at the Lāna'i High and Elementary School cafeteria. The meeting began around 6:03 p.m., and the Committee heard from ten testifiers. Individuals shared their positive experiences and asked for continued support of Maui Economic Opportunity, Incorporated, especially the Lāna'i-Grown Food Stimulus Program, which I am not a part of; Lāna'i Kinā'ole; UH Maui College, Lāna'i; and the Lāna'i Farmers Market. Other topics also include request of support for farmers; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; boards and commissions - especially Lāna'i Planning Commission and Independent Nomination Board; acquisition and rehabilitation of the First Hawaiian Bank building; a commercial kitchen; a multipurpose facility and community center that can be used as an emergency center. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40...sorry, 6:52 p.m. And then, during our dinner, folks came up to us and talked to us about sports facilities, so we're all...and I just wanted to add that up. So, thank you, Members, really appreciate you guys and come and visit our little community of Lāna'i and see you again next year. Mahalo.

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. And I'm sure I speak for the rest of the Members when I say thank you to you both for your hospitality while we were in your moku. It meant a lot that you were able to introduce us and nourish us and help facilitate meaningful discussion while we were in South Maui and on Lānaʻi. Okay. Members, today we will continue our deliberations on the FY2027 budget. We will begin with comments from the Department of Environmental Management. At this time, I would like to invite the Director of the Department of Environmental Management to introduce his team and provide opening remarks.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Vice-Chair Batangan. Hi, everybody. Good to see all of you again. Shayne Agawa, Director of Environmental Management. I'll start off by introducing our team. To my left is our Deputy Director Mike Peterson; our Administrator...Administrative Officer Marcy Glassford; and then we have Eric Nakagawa from our Wastewater Division; Cecile Powell from our EP&S Division; Mike Kehano from our Solid Waste Division; and everybody knows Troy Kahalekai from our Solid Waste, and he's our Operations Superintendent. So, good afternoon, Vice-Chair Batangan, BFED Committee Members. I just like to start off by saying, thank you for allowing us this time and opportunity to discuss our Fiscal Year '27 DEM budget. To make the best use of time, my presentation will focus on the following guidance provided by this Committee to the Mayor's Budget Office on March 10th. So there's six items under that guidance, and I'll just go through them one by one. So the first one was asking about significant increases in our Department or other changes in funding. So DEM is proposing an increase in our overall budget of 13.5 percent as compared to our Fiscal Year '26 budget. The major increase of that 13.5 percent is mainly due to Capital Improvement Program budget with a proposed budget of 123...about 124 million for Fiscal Year '27 as compared to about 111 million in Fiscal Year '26. Notable projects under our CIP plan is our Central Maui Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility, of which we have budgeted about 128 million in Fiscal Year '27, various budget funding sources. We also have West Maui recycling infrastructure, 3.6 million, that's for materials management and collection infrastructure. We have organics processing, about 2 million, that mainly is for the FOG recycling system and composting. And we also have neighbor island landfill improvements, 1.7 million for the Molokai Landfill Scale House, and another 1.1 million for the Lānaʻi landfill office trailer. Next is operating and...operating budget and revenue changes. So the proposed Fiscal Year '27 operating budget for our Administration office is approximately 3.35 million. I do want to make a note that out of that 3.35 million, 2.5 million is dedicated as grant funding to support the Maʻalaea Village Association. Our wastewater operational budget also increased by approximately \$1.6 million due to various reasons. And on Solid Waste, request for equipment replacement and expansion is approximately \$2.8 million more than our request for Fiscal Year '26. The second item under the guidance was new or discontinued positions, or programs or services. DEM is proposing two new expansion positions under the '27 budget along with funding for an expansion position that was approved in the Fiscal Year '26 budget but was unfunded. These E/Ps are to support the expanding programs and responsibilities of our EP&S Division. So the first position is a Recycling Specialist II, and that is to support our abandoned vehicles and middle section. This position will manage and facilitate special projects. As you know, there's been an uptick in special cleanup projects for disaster mitigation and also

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

April 16, 2026

environmental protection; so this position will help in that effort. The second position is a Recycling Specialist II, also to support our EP&S Division. This would be under our Environmental Program section, and this position will manage and facilitate the organics-related programs. And the third position that I mentioned was the one that was created under Fiscal Year '26 but was unfunded, which is a Recycling Specialist III position, also for our EP&S Division. And this is to assist with the CARP updates. New and expanded programs, we have our...as I mentioned before, Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility in Waikapū. We also have West Maui Recycling Waste Diversion infrastructure, which I also mentioned, 3.6 million. And we also have our refuse collection cloud-based routing and accounting software. We're asking 150,000 for the hardware and another 180,000 for the software and continuing funding year after year of 180,000 for a total of 330,000 this year. The third item under the guidance, changes in grant funding. So we have four major grant funding request and increases. They are all under our EP&S Division. So the first one is for Environmental Protection grants. The previous allocation in '26 was 300,000. We're asking for an increase in 500,000 this year for a total of 800,000. The second one is our Green Grants. We had 160,000 in Fiscal Year '26. We're also asking for an increase of 440,000 in Fiscal Year '27 for a total of 600,000. We also have our Maui County Wetlands grants, was previously 800,000. We're asking for an increase of 150,000 for a total of 950,000. And the last one is our Go Green West Maui Recycling, which is a proviso grant, the other three were competitive. Previously it was 800,000, and we're asking for an increase...oh, sorry, 80,000, and we're asking for an increase of 160,000 for a total of 240,000 in Fiscal Year '27. So the grand total of grant increases we're asking for is 1.25 million on top of what was allocated in Fiscal Year '27. No, I'm sorry, '26. Thank you. The fourth one is activity and adjustments in special revolving funds. So DEM continues to shift its fiscal strategy towards self-sustaining models and major infrastructure expansion. So the first fund is our Sewer Fund. The Department is increasingly relying on the Sewer Fund to fund major capital improvement projects. In Fiscal Year '27, we anticipate approximately 10.1 million of these projects to be funded by this Sewer Fund. This is supported by a multi-year rate strategy, including nine percent increase that I will talk about at the end; that started in Fiscal Year '26. And that's to ensure wastewater system infrastructure remains operational and efficient. In solid waste, we have our Solid Waste Fund, proposed for Fiscal Year '27, our CIP projects include \$7.2 million that is intended to be funded from the Solid Waste Fund. And for EP&S, in Fiscal Year '27, the proposed earmarks is approximately \$2 million from the EP&S Fund. And this is to fund capital improvement, specifically focusing on organics processing. Next, we have Revolving Fund. So we have a Highway Beautification and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicle Derelict Revolving Fund that's managed by our EP&S Division. The...the fund specifically finances the removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles and then also for litter control. We have a Wastewater Facility Expansion Reserve Fund that was established to set aside revenues for system repairs and facility replacements as our demand grows. And the last revolving fund...excuse me...is our State Revolving Fund...Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This is to secure low-interest loans for major wastewater infrastructure and water pollution control projects. Under the fifth item, under the guidance, capital improvement projects, we were asked to give an emphasis on Fiscal Year '25 projects and readiness to proceed with '26 projects. So under Fiscal Year '25, we had a total budget of about 47 million. We had 14 CIP projects under Wastewater. The status is

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

April 16, 2026

all of those projects are in various stages of design and construction. We had seven Solid Waste Division CIP projects. One of those projects is 100 percent completed. Five of those projects are in various stages of design or construction. And one project from Fiscal Year '25 was deferred to this current Fiscal Year '27 budget. In Fiscal Year '26, our total CIP budget was about 111 million. We had 23 wastewater CIP projects. All of those projects are in various stages of design and construction. There was five Solid Waste Division projects also in design and construction. And there were two EP&S projects, all in various stages of design and construction. And in our '27 proposed budget, the ask is about 124 million. Wastewater, we are proposing 12 CIP projects for a total of 112 million; Solid Waste Division, 13 CIP projects for a total of just over 11 million. And to make note, three of those projects have been moved from EP&S under our Solid Waste Division. And we have no CIP projects in Fiscal Year '27 for our EP&S Division. And the last item under the guidance deals with rates and fees. So as I mentioned earlier, in our Wastewater budget we propose an overall average rate increase of nine percent. This reflects approximately \$2.2 million in additional revenue. How it affects single-family residents, the average monthly fee in '26 was \$92.40 a month. Under this nine percent rate increase, the average single-family resident monthly would be 103 and 75 cents a month. For multi-family residents, under Fiscal Year '26, the average monthly fee was \$78.60. And under Fiscal Year '27 proposed, it's \$89.50 a month. And we also have some proposed rate increases for our Solid Waste Division. For...excuse me...\$1 a month for Maui and Molokai, this is for refuse collection, from \$36 a month in Fiscal Year '26 to \$37 a month in Fiscal Year '27. And then for Lānaʻi is half of that, from \$18 a month in Fiscal Year '26 to \$18.50 a month. And we also have a change in our recycling tipping fee surcharge. The...the amount will stay the same, but we are moving it from our EP&S budget to our Solid Waste Division budget. And that's due to the moving of Recycling Section under Solid Waste. So in closing, I would like to, again, express my thanks for this body and allowing us to share a brief overview of our Fiscal Year '27 budget. And we are happy to address any questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Director. At this time, we will now open the floor for public testimony. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up with Staff, join the online meeting via Teams, or call into the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the Department's schedule today. Written testimony is...is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link and mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting. Again, there's only one item on today's agenda, it's the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the County of Maui. 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...and lower your hand, star 6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier 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 name you're logged in under or the last four digits of the phone number that you're calling in from when it is your time to testify. 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 testify anonymously. If you're in person,

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

April 16, 2026

please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please 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 will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can also review the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. I will now call on testifiers wishing to testify. Staff, please call the first testifier.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Vice-Chair. The first testifier is Hallie Hunt, to be followed by Ali McKeon.

MS. HUNT: Hello, Vice-Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you for your commitment to our community and for hearing testimony today. My name is Hallie Hunt, and I'm the Artistic Director for Adaptations Dance Theater, which is Maui's only contemporary dance company. I'm here today to testify on behalf of Bill 55 and continued County funding for Adaptations Dance Theater. This year, ADT celebrates its 13th anniversary as a nonprofit arts organization. For over a decade, ADT has been committed to making Maui a place where professional dance can not only exist but truly thrive. Through residencies and performances, we built a homegrown ecosystem that supports dancers from pre-professional to professional right here on Maui. I want to share my deep gratitude for the County's investment. Because of this support, we've been able to double our programming, doubling opportunities for artists and expanding access for our community. This funding has directly increased the amount of time that artists can live and work on Maui, providing more contracts, more creative time, and more stability. At a time when across the United States, long-standing dance companies are closing their doors and shutting down due to lack of funding, we are incredibly proud that you all...that Maui County is investing in keeping Maui's only contemporary dance company alive and growing. This funding has a real impact. It creates viable professional pathways for artists and shows our youth that their community supports the arts as a meaningful and sustainable career. Young dancers here can see that an artistic life is something they can pursue at home. They see their Councilmembers, their Mayor, and their community valuing the arts and that message really matters. It also helps us retain the incredible talent that is from Maui, young artists shaped and educated here. I know a lot of these young artists, I teach a lot of them, and I know that they carry a unique and deeply-rooted creative voice. Supporting ADT means that those voices can stay here, contributing to the cultural fabric of our island. The performing arts are essential to a healthy vibrant community. They foster connection, reflection, and a strong sense of belonging. Mahalo for your past support. We respectfully ask for your continued support so we can continue expanding opportunities and serving our community. Thank you all for listening and thank you for your time and consideration. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. I will ask that you call up the next testifier.

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

April 16, 2026

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Vice-Chair. The next testifier is Ali McKeon, to be followed by Terah Tsuyako Summers.

MS. MCKEON: Aloha, Co-Chair and Councilmembers. Mahalo for being here and for your continued commitment to our community. My name is Ali McKeon, and I serve as the Executive Director for Adaptations Dance Theater. I'm also someone whose life has been directly shaped by this organization. I was born and raised on Maui, and I first danced with ADT during the very first Bring It Home, which is our annual summer show at the historic Iao Theater. Over the years, I grew with the company, returning as a choreographer and eventually participating in every single Bring It Home season. In 2021, after becoming a mother and moving back to Maui after 13 years in California, I joined the company yet again, this time as Artistic Director, and I'm now going into my second year as the Executive Director. My story is not unique within ADT, and that's exactly the point because our mission is to create a permanent home for world class professional contemporary dance on Maui and to contribute to the cultural fabric of Maui Arts scene. Artists like Katie Whiticar, Emily McKeon, and Maddie McCain all trained on Maui and have been able to return home after college and professional careers on the mainland and continue their work as artists here. Ella Craft graduated high school and has gone through ADT's education pipeline to full company member. ADT creates a pathway for dancers to come home, to contribute, and to belong. Through County support, for the past three years, our Giving 'Ohana (*phonetic*) private grant funding and community partnerships we have been able to...to offer a growing number of paid artist contract each year, providing real sustainable opportunities for dancers and choreographers to live and work on Maui. These are not just performances, these are jobs, creative residencies, and meaningful employment that allow artists to build lives here impacting the broader Maui economy and allowing our community from keiki to kupuna to witness world-class professional contemporary dance without leaving the island. Without this kind of support artists, like myself and so many others would not have had a reason or the ability to come back. And the community that invests in these artists would lose the ability to remain intact. ADT is building something rare, a full-circle ecosystem where young dancers can train here, leave to grow, and return home to contribute at a professional level. I'm standing here today as a direct result of that ecosystem. And now, in my role, my goal is to make sure that more stories like mine are not only possible but sustainable for generations to come. Mahalo for investing in a future where the arts continue to thrive on Maui.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? I guess I will first recognize Member Sugimura.

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

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Welcome to this meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And then go ahead and ask your question.

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

April 16, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So first of all, apologies for being late. I did around the world in 45...or two hours. I went all the way to Kula, and did work, and came back. So, sorry I'm late. So, question for you, then, is you're in the budget for how much?

MS. MCKEON: For 90,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And under --

MS. MCKEON: That is a good question. I can look that up and send that to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no, no. I...I just thought you would have it handy. So, 90,000. And this is how many years have you been in the budget?

MS. MCKEON: We've been in the budget for three years. And so, we're asking for our fourth year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

MS. MCKEON: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Did I see Member U'u-Hodgins raise her hand?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I was just going to tell Chair Sugimura that this has been a priority of mine, so that's where they get their funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MCKEON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I get it. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins, Member Sugimura.

MS. MCKEON: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Any other questions? Okay. Seeing none. Staff, can I ask that you please call the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Terah Tsuyako Summers, to be followed by the Oni Foundation on Teams.

MS. SUMMERS: Aloha, everyone. My name is Terah Tsuyako Summers, and I'm the Maui Community Coordinator for Mental Health America of Hawai'i. So Mental Health America of Hawai'i is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and State affiliate of a nationally recognized organization serving Hawai'i for nearly 80 years, guided by our mission to promote mental health and wellness through education, advocacy, and service. We work toward

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

April 16, 2026

the vision of mental wellness for all. Since 1942 Mental Health America of Hawai'i has played a key leadership role in expanding mental health awareness, preparedness, and access to resources across the State. Our efforts focus on reducing stigma associated with mental health conditions through education and empowerment for those living with mental health challenges and support for their loved ones. We have now been serving Maui County residents for over 50 years. And through our programs, we have positively impacted at least 9,280 residents each year through the following initiatives. So we provide suicide prevention trainings, including safeTALK, Suicide Prevention 101, Mental Health First Aid, and youth suicide and bullying prevention programs. We also offer a daily telephone assistance, so we connect callers to help they may need for mental health problems. We also support the Maui County Police Department in their crisis intervention trainings. And we also advocate for better mental health care at the State Legislature. In Fiscal Year 2025, our Maui office achieved the following outcomes: 898 youth were trained in self-care, bullying and suicide prevention. So it was fun to go back to my alumni schools, Iao Intermediate and Baldwin High School, that was fun. Two hundred and eighty Maui County DOE staff were trained in Suicide Prevention 101. Over 200 community members were reached through our free education programs, Mental Health First Aid, safeTALK, ASIST and help calls. Nearly 2,000 Maui County residents were reached through community outreach events, and 62 Maui Police Officers were provided with personal testimonies of lived experience during their crisis intervention training. In conclusion, Mental Health America of Hawai'i, Maui's office, continues to prioritize accessible support, advocacy, and resources for those affected by mental health challenges. Mahalo to the Maui County Council Budget Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members...Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your testimony. I was wondering if you were offering your services Countywide. I think, in past years and in this year, we heard from Hāna and Molokai that they need more assistance.

MS. SUMMERS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What kind of assistance do you give to those communities?

MS. SUMMERS: Yeah. So we went to Molokai this past year to provide DOE staff with suicide prevention training. So I know there was over 100 teachers who got trained in that. And then for Hāna we have done outreach events. It is a little bit difficult to do the suicide prevention trainings at that school, but that is a goal of mine to get out there as much as possible, but we can make that a priority.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, because I thought I had heard in your testimony about accessibility and --

MS. SUMMERS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you know, it's more accessible for, like, Baldwin --

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

April 16, 2026

MS. SUMMERS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Maui High to get --

MS. SUMMERS: Yeah, definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- services. And it's harder for, like, rural areas. So --

MS. SUMMERS: For sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- just wondering why there's not more focus on the rural areas because they have --

MS. SUMMERS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- a more difficult time overall.

MS. SUMMERS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's great to do low-hanging fruit, but --

MS. SUMMERS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- people that are originally having hard time with accessibility --

MS. SUMMERS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- are having a harder time.

MS. SUMMERS: Yeah, definitely. I could definitely bring that to our team and make that a focus for the future. I love waking up at 4 a.m. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. SUMMERS: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Any other questions? Seeing none. Staff, may I ask that you please call the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Vice-Chair, the next testifier is Oni Foundation on Teams, to be followed by Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii. (Pause) Oni Foundation is unmuted on our end. They would just have to unmute themselves and then begin their testimony.

MR. WHITNEY: Aloha. Hi. My name is David Whitney from Oni Foundation. I'm the Executive Director. I want to say aloha to Chairman [sic] Sugimura and Vice-Chair Batangan and the Committee Members. Thank you for giving us this opportunity. I want to let you

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

April 16, 2026

know that there will be three of us that are presenting our testimony here online, and I'll be the first, followed by Kalae, one of our cultural ambassador trainees, and then our Vice-President, Ku'ulei Pridgen. So I want to also note that we'll be submitting a packet of our testimony along with a brief video I hope you'll watch. I'll give you guys a link to that. So I'm going to highlight a few key points today, and then I'll be available for any questions you have. We are a multicultural dance and arts center, a Wonderful World of Aloha in Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center [sic]. You may remember us introducing ourselves last year. We...our mission is to perpetuate the multicultural heritage of Hawai'i. And we recognize that this is an incredibly difficult budget year between rebuilding Lahaina and recovering from the storms. We understand that the County is bearing a heavy financial and emotional burden. And...but in a time of crisis it is understandable that the arts might be viewed as secondary priority. However, cultural awareness and the preservation of Maui's heritage are at the very foundation of a community's wellness, identity, and resilience. Our...the Oni Foundation's objective is to safeguard the unique legacy of Native Hawaiians alongside Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Mexican, Portuguese, just to name a few of the diverse cultures that make up our island's true melting pot. To sustain Maui's cultural recovery and economic resilience and regenerative tourism, we are respectfully requesting a total of \$161,000, \$89,000 from the Office of Economic Development. That's a 30 percent increase in what we're currently receiving from OED. And we're also hoping that in asking that the County Council provide another 72,800 for us to bring on a Educational Curriculum Coordinator to help us improve our community engagement. As Chief Financial Officer of 'Aumakua Productions, I understand the importance of financial stewardship. And in the service of that responsibility, Oni Foundation has recruited Madeline Pascua (*phonetic*) to join our Financial Committee and as an auditor and consultant. And the Oni Foundation has built on fiscal responsibility. In the past six months we have, so far, successfully managed 26,000 of our \$64,000 OED grant, and we've used that to generate more than \$55,000 in additional income providing economic benefit to the staff and supplemental income to our cultural instructors. We have a proven capacity to stretch the County dollars and serve both the community benefit and as an economic . . . (*timer sounds*). . . driver. And one last line, we intend the Wonderful World of Aloha center to become a premier hub for cultural resources. Together, we can ensure that the Maui County recovery includes not only rebuilding structures but improving Maui's regenerative tourism experience that fosters future cultural ambassadors. Thank you for the excess time, and I'm going to introduce Kalae and take your questions after the three of us give our testimony. And here's Kalae.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Kalae, you have three minutes.

MS. KALAE: So, my name is Kalae, and I can say that I am a...oh, sorry. I'm proud to be a Youth Cultural Ambassador with the Oni Foundation and the Wonderful World of Aloha center. Growing up on Maui, especially in the wake of the wildfires, has been very heavy on my generation. So much has changed. And being a part of the Oni Foundation has given me a safe...a safe place to, like, celebrate and practice our cultural healing, especially from the shock of the 2023 wildfires. It's a place where I can learn about my heritage, practice our traditional arts and share the mo'olelo of our ancestors confidently, accurately, and professionally. Right now, our Youth Cultural Ambassador

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

April 16, 2026

Program is working to recruit more haumana to become trained, like, cultural ambassadors and representatives. We aren't just learning how to dance, make crafts; we are learning how to be leaders. We are learning how to share our island's real history with visitors to respect our home. I know the County has a lot of important things to pay for right now to rebuild but please support the Oni Foundation funding request from the OED and the Council. Young people like me need a place to stay connected to who we are so we can be the ones to help Maui heal and move forward. Any questions? Mahalo for your time.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. I believe Mr. Whitney said that your group would take questions after all three of you testified. So we'll hold on, and then I'll open it up for questions at that point. Is the last individual...I remember Ku'ulei, but I can't --

MS. PRIDGEN: *(Inaudible)* --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

MS. PRIDGEN: Ku'ulei. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Aloha, Chair and Committee Members. We respectfully request \$89,000 in continued core support from the Office of Economic Development and 72,800 from the Maui County Council to launch a full-time Educational Curriculum Coordinator. As Vice-President and Head Docent of the Oni Foundation, I bring more than 35 years of experience in Polynesian dance, culture, and education. My family, going back generations, has been born and raised in the dance and music of Hawai'i. And we have committed our lives to giving those arts back to the community. I was born in Kailua, Kona, Hawai'i, but raised Maui. Our family is from every parts, from Lahaina to Hāna. So we definitely love sharing the culture. I'm very passionate about retaining cultural integrity and our collective memory. This passion for the arts is more than just entertainment for us; it is the backbone of our local economy. The Oni Foundation plays a direct role in the economic and emotional health of our community through workforce development. Our Youth Cultural Ambassador Program currently trains young people in performing arts and crafts positioning them directly for careers as dancers, cultural advisors in Maui's number one industry. In fact, that's where Kalae just went back to teach more culture crafts and activities in our cultural center. For example, our youth who complete our training are equipped to step into well-paying roles within the hospitality sector, ensuring that visitors are guided by authentic local voices rather than outside interpreters. The program provides economic opportunities for local artisans, cultural practitioners and performers directly benefiting the community by supporting careers in the creative and cultural sectors. Our program, at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center [*sic*], bring much needed foot traffic to this Central Maui gathering place benefiting other merchants here. Also bringing youth together, creating a safe place, and a place where you can find resources of cultural information, great central place linking these communities together. Your continued support ensures that Maui's recovery is led by its people, its stories, and its youth. Mahalo so much for all your time. That's...that's all from me. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, do you have any questions of any of the three testifiers with the Oni Foundation? Member Paltin.

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

April 16, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. What would the funding that you're requesting be used for?

MS. PRIDGEN: Yeah, sure.

MR. WHITNEY: Aloha. Thank you for that question. We would...are seeking hiring a full-time staff member that would do community engagement, so connect us to the school system, to the community college, and other resources where we could enlist professionals and cultural teachers, as well as developing our Youth Cultural Ambassador Program, which is to generate the pipeline of...of learning to professional representing, you know, culture in Hawai'i.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do the Youth Ambassadors receive a stipend or any compensation?

MR. WHITNEY: Yes. Right now, through OED, we have a few cultural ambassadors, cultural instructors; professionals in the industry who come into the center and teach lauhala weaving, or ukulele or any other, you know, crafts that we offer. *(Audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How much...how much money do the Youth Ambassadors receive?

MR. WHITNEY: Well, right now the Youth Ambassadors...I don't...are not receiving funding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And what are your other funding sources besides the County?

MR. WHITNEY: We've gotten an Atherton grant [*sic*], we've gotten World Indigenous Science Network [*sic*]. They're a local Lahaina-based private foundation; they funded us with several grants. We've gotten funding through...like, we're joining charity walks this year. We've done fundraisers and...and we just get general donations that are both in cash and online, and we received funds from the programs that we offer. So people pay --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What...what percentage --

MR. WHITNEY: -- \$20 to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- what percentage to the County money are receiving? Is it like one-to-one or...is it a one-to-one match?

MR. WHITNEY: I...I...no, I don't think it's...it would...it's not a one-to-one. I...to get the exact amount of that. I would say that it's actually about a third.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Does any other Member have questions

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

April 16, 2026

for the Oni Foundation? Okay. Seeing none. Staff, before you call the next testifier, can I ask that you check with anybody else on the list to see if there are multiple people signed up to testify under the same...I don't know. Is there a reservation name? I don't know how you keep track but call the next testifier, and then can I ask that you go through and see if there's anybody else who has multiple people signed up to testify under the same name or reservation, or whatever it is. Thank you.

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. So the next testifier is Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii, to be followed by William Spence.

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: Aloha. Can you hear me?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, we can.

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: Okay. So sorry, I was clicking the wrong button. Thank you very much, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members. My name is Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii. I am a resident of Makawao. And I am the Program Assistant for Uhiwai O Haleakalā. We are a nonprofit organization established in 2018 with the mission to protect and restore the watersheds of the leeward slopes for Haleakalā. Our work advances critical. . .*(inaudible)*. . .for our State, which would be strengthening freshwater resources, preserving Native Hawaiian cultural practices, supporting rural economies, and fostering community stewardship of our...our natural resources and our landscape here. Excuse me. I am respectfully testifying today in support of the proposed EP&S Green Grants funding for the Nāulu Cloud Revival. This would not only support Uhiwai but multiple organizations such as Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, projects in Kahikinui, Hawai'i; ARC, Agricultural Research Center; Pu'umāhoe Arboretum; Mālama Haleakalā; and other partners that are working to mitigate climate change. And these projects will be working to increase out plantings on both Maui and Kaho'olawe, collect native seeds, especially those that are keystone species like. . .*(inaudible)*. . .on this side of the island, and engage the community by sharing with them cultural...the cultural value of the Nāulu and getting them actively involved in stewardship. We all know that climate change is already impacting our environment, our natural resources, our economic stability, and our community wellbeing. So it is important to have place-based solutions like watershed restoration to build long-term resilience and prevent further degradation. The leeward slopes of Haleakalā are historically associated with the Nāulu, which is often described as a cloud bridge. And it once carried moisture across the channel to Kaho'olawe and beyond. However, due to extensive deforestation on that side of the island, it has disrupted the natural system. And as a result, the Nāulu has become less consistent and rainfall in the region has significantly declined. So by restoring our native forest, it's not only an environmental priority, but it is a cultural, economic, and climate resilient strategy. And by supporting the EP&S Green Grants for the Nāulu Cloud revival, you will be investing in proven community-based efforts to mitigate climate impacts, restore our watershed function, and revitalize the natural systems that sustain our island. So, thank you very much for giving me the time to testify today. Mahalo very much for your time and your consideration.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Member Johnson.

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

April 16, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Ms. Tamashimi...Tamashiro-Kamii, for your testimony. I just have a clarifying question for you in regards to your statements about the degradation of our forests. Do you think that funding the Nāulu Cloud Bridge would reduce our climate change emergencies, like the flooding?

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: It's going to be something that we need to start now. It's a long-term...we have to look at the long-term effects. I think it's...it'll just be compounded as we...we plant more. And the only way to actually, you know, retain our watershed function is to...to restore our forests and the...the forest will bring back, hopefully, the moisture, the rain, and those clouds can continue to carry the...the rains to Kaho'olawe and beyond. And if we plant on both ends, if we work together to collaboratively, which is what we are hoping to be able to achieve through this, collaboratively work together...you know, I'm nervous. Yeah. It...you know, we will be able to find more and efficient ways to help foster deforestation on both sides.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's all interconnected. Thank you so much for your response. Thank you, Chair. No further question.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Any other questions? Member...or Committee Chair Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Vice-Chair. So in the budget...how much are you in the budget for?

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: So we are looking...for Uhiwai, we are looking for up to \$600,000. And what this would do is it would allow us to increase our capacity to bring...we're creating five new positions, three of them are 100 percent field. And then we would have a GIS person to help us with all the data so we can make sure that we can be accountable for, you know, whatever we do and be able to put...bring that data to show, you know, what's working and what's not. We also need, like, a 50 percent Operations Manager to...to be solely dedicated to this particular project. We would look at also bringing on two interns, the year-long interns. And what these...this...this core group would be doing would be really looking at seed collection so that we have seed to propagate and ensure that we can out-plant the...the species that are native to that area to make sure that we have the best survival rate for those species. And part of the...the whole...the propagation...it would go from propagation and then invasive species control all the way to out-planting in the end because in the end, that's what we need. We need to get the plants back on the ground.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So who's your Executive Director?

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: Our Executive Director is Andrea Buckman, and she will be testifying in just a bit. She's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you're in Department of Water Supply...or what Department are you

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

April 16, 2026

in for your 600,000?

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: We're...we're not in the Department of Water Supply, this...we are looking...I'm sorry if I misspoke. Wwe are looking at the EP&S, the Environmental Protection, that sustainability Green Grant.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so you're not...you're not in the budget right now. You're asking to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if I may? I'm sorry, point of information, Councilmember Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: This is one of my prior...thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: This is one of my priorities. I...I wanted to let you know before you go down this line of questioning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay, because I can't find you. Thank you.

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura. Heads up, your mic is still on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. I have a question for you after clarifying questions are done with this testifier.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. I'll circle back. Members, are...are there any other questions for the testifier? Okay. Seeing none. I'll recognize Chair Lee, and then I recognize that we have Mr. Spence in the wing waiting for his opportunity to testify. So, go ahead, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I think it might be easier if the testifiers knew...it would be simpler if they just mentioned how much they are asking for and whether or not they're in...in the Mayor's proposed budget. And if they can...if they want to mention, if they're not in the Mayor's proposed budget, what amount they're asking for.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If they could say that upfront because it...sometimes they go through

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

April 16, 2026

a long explanation, and we still don't know what they're asking for. Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair.

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: I apologize. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No. I...I apologize.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No apology necessary.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I could have said that upfront and did not, so thank you very much to you and to Chair. And then, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, did you want to add --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah. And if any of the organizations are working with a specific Councilmember. I know they don't...you know, folks don't necessarily understand or know what our process is to know...to say priority proposal, or something. But to just say that, you know, you've been working with a specific Councilmember on this, and then we'll know.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Anybody else? Okay. Seeing none. Thank you very much, Ms. Tamashiro-Kaii...Kamii.

MS. TAMASHIRO-KAMII: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Staff, can you call up the next testifier, please?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Vice-Chair. The next testifier is William Spence, to be followed by Andrea Buck...Buckman.

MR. SPENCE: Good afternoon, Chair, Members. I previously thought about Chair Lee's comments about who...you know, the Mayor's budget, and amounts, and everything. So I got that for you. So I'm here today to support the...the Mayor's proposed grants to the Hui No'eau Visual Art Center and there's two grants. The first one is Art With Aloha that goes through the Office of Economic Development, it's for \$50,000. And what this does is it helps support cultural practitioners teaching their skills to people who want to learn. The last year, we had 339 students involved in the classes. And of course they did lei making, but also. . .*(inaudible)*. . .excuse me, lauhala weaving, Pupu O Ni'ihau, where they made earrings, and Lei Hulu Poepoe, which is feather lei making. And I'll say I've met some of the practitioners, and their depth of knowledge and their aloha have just, honestly, left me speechless. The quality of the education they provide is amazing. The other grant is for 75,000; that is for Youth and Family arts through the Department of Human Concerns. That...yeah, for 75,000. Last year, we served more than 10,000 young adults and keiki, reaching out to public schools through other

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

April 16, 2026

nonprofits. We have partnerships throughout the islands. We're reaching out to Molokai and Lāna'i. The...one...the favorite things that we do with the keiki and the young adults is we...we...every time we have an exhibit at the Hui, we share space...we provide space for the kids to showcase their work. And it's one of my favorite things because they're so honest, and they're...they're so excited by being able to exhibit their...the skill set and everything is...it's just amazing to me. But it does something for them as well. It...their self-esteem gets lifted up. Last year, we had...we do work with the...excuse me...Ke Hale A Ke Ola [sic] where we have an instructor go out three times a week. And one of the kids there entered the...actually a number of them entered the Mālama Wao Akua Show, and one of the kids was selected as the Juror's Choice for the elementary level. And if you can only imagine what that would do for a kid's self-esteem; I...I think it's all worth it. . . .(timer sounds). . . And then I'll just wrap this up. If you ever get a chance to go to the Hui and meet some of the staff, they're the ones that drive this. They're the ones that have the vision for reaching out to the community, for reaching out...and, you know, for the practitioners to come in and teach. An amazing crew up there from the Executive Director to the...the teaching staff that...that goes out to the islands and...and to the rural areas. So, thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Spence. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can you please call up the next testifier?

MR. SPENCE: Thank you.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Andrea Buckman, to be followed by Travis Liggett.

MS. BUCKMAN: Aloha auinala. I'm really grateful to have the opportunity to speak with you folks today. Thank you for everything that you've been doing in this session and thank you for the presenters even before. These are all very important issues, and I appreciate the...the types of decision-making you folks are facing right now; it has to be hard. I am the Executive Director of Uhiwai O Haleakalā. I've been doing conservation work on the leeward slopes of Maui for...and then marine environment at the very beginning, for almost 20 years now. We do have a...a collaboration, I guess, with...initiated by Councilmember Johnson to restore the Nāulu Cloud Bridge. I'm really grateful to be a part of this. I think our request is about 600k, but it does include other partners. The whole entire initiative right now, I think, is slated for about 2.9 million. I really want to give Councilmember Johnson and...and...and all of you folks my appreciation because your leadership at the Council level has been, historically, extremely important and as resolving and addressing a number of Maui's watershed, natural resources management issues. And this...this initiative has given me, personally, a really exciting opportunity to look at things, not only from a higher-elevation watershed perspective, or a landowner-based perspective, it's really enabled us to look at things from mauka-to-makai to engage with partners all the way from UH Hilo and looking at the science behind it, to my friends and colleagues at Kaho'olawe to our...our visitor industry partners at the Fairmont Kea Lani. This initiative really brings a lot of pieces together that we need and looking at the...the scale of climate change, the pace that it's happening. We've done a lot of work over the years, starting with ten acres fenced to tens of thousands of acres fenced. And these...these areas need, now, the management

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

April 16, 2026

money. They need to be planted. They need to be engaged with fire community. We...we also have the opportunity with this specific initiative to look at things in a recurring corridor perspective. We can address middle elevations, which have been largely, you know, unavailable to traditional funding mechanisms. So...and we can do things like build seed...seed sources across the slope in a contour mechanism. This will establish seeds for future restoration, enable community engagement. It'll slow the rate in which all that rainfall that we've been getting, you know, transfers down the mountain. It'll reduce the amount of erosion that we get. It'll enable our aquifers to hopefully have...have even a fair chance. So with all the disasters that we've seen, I think it's over \$2 billion in the last three years of disaster and life...loss of life. We really have to look at things in this proactive, innovative, collaborative approach. . . .(timer sounds). . . And I really think this...this initiative is something that I hope our Council and our community can be behind. Mahalo for your time.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Buckman, for your work. I was just reading through the responses, and it said that Uhiwai O Haleakalā applied for 88,000 for fencing and watershed from the Environmental Protection grants in Fiscal Year '26. Is that correct?

MS. BUCKMAN: I...I believe that...if that's the grant we didn't...we didn't receive.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I was wondering if you were pointed to the areas where the fencing was...was allocated. I think...was it under Agriculture? Did anyone...I think Lokahi Pacific was managing the distribution of \$100,000 increments. So when you submitted your grant, did anyone point you in that direction as that's where the fencing watershed pots of money were?

MS. BUCKMAN: I know we've had really good communications with...there's been a lot of change with the County level, and we've been trying to build connections with each...each individual agency again. But I...I don't, honestly, specifically remember being directed to Lokahi Pacific. So, thank you for that very much, and I'll...I'll look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And also, Department of Water Supply gives out watershed grants as well.

MS. BUCKMAN: (Audio interference) thank you. The...the issue that we've had in working on leeward Haleakalā is that a lot of the...the revenue generated that funds the Department of Water Supply grants is by taxpayers that receive the water from the County infrastructure. So a lot of our work is more directed towards the future. We don't really supply a tremendous amount of the water at this point. So it's been difficult in the past.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, you're not awahi...you're not the awahi recipient, right?

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

April 16, 2026

MS. BUCKMAN: No. That's where I started, and I worked for many years. But no, we're working in a --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...and this cloud --

MS. BUCKMAN: -- complementary capacity.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the cloud 600,000 is separate from the fence project. So you could, in theory, reapply in Fiscal Year '27 to...under the Department of Agriculture fencing. What is the acreage that you're looking to fence...or you were looking to fence?

MS. BUCKMAN: Well, I think we...we've shifted from that...that project in the scope of what we've been working with Councilmember Johnson and...and his team on. We don't...we didn't request fencing in this. It's more capacity-building and accelerating seed source availability, hiring so we can get more staff and training on the ground so that we can build...build the capacity that we need to plant these areas.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: *(Inaudible)* --

MS. BUCKMAN: Whether it's for the Nāulu initiative or not, Maui...Maui needs, and we have fenced very large areas. So seed...seed source availability is one of the hugest limiting factors, as is water. So this...this proposal helps us build our capacity in terms of staff, water, seed collection, and making sure we have that...that availability so that we could continue to build on this initiative for...for years to come. This is a lifelong pursuit, you know, that Maui needs so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you don't have --

MS. BUCKMAN: But we did have partners at...at Mālama Haleakalā, I believe, that applied for some funding for fencing and maybe that's what some of our colleagues are working on, but...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you're not reapplying for a fencing grant, and you don't think that you'll need them with the access to your population or no feral animals? You're...you're good.

MS. BUCKMAN: I mean, this...what we've been discussing right now is FY'27, so we have only...you know, with one year of work fencing requires, you know, lots of approvals. And right now, the...what we've proposed is working within areas where we've already got fences and that required management now that the fences are built to...to make sure that we stop that erosion, that we stop that rain, that we capture it when it does come, and that we get the cloud moisture when it's available. So don't get me wrong, fencing is always important, and I could name, you know, ten projects right now that need it and deserve it. So I don't mean to...I don't mean to say that it's not important. But in terms of our request for this particular item, we didn't...we didn't put a lot into fencing except for repairs because as we've seen the scale of...of storms and the recurrence of storms has just been tremendous. And so, we're constantly going back to

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

April 16, 2026

fix fences, and repair them, and have to inspect them over and over, and that's stuff that you can't get in grants, and nonprofits don't have savings accounts. So we did request funding for fence material in terms of being able to have the capacity when we need it to repair the fences that we already have. And then we're hoping that this is going to be a long-term initiative that we can continue to look at, repairing corridor fencing and adding more for, to me, our partners' needs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: At some point, will you submit a map of the proposed work area?

MS. BUCKMAN: Sure. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. BUCKMAN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Does anybody else have any questions for the testifier? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. I just want to let you, Members, know and everybody in the public that, you know, as this being one of my priorities, I work closely with Ms. Buckman, but we also worked with the Department of EP&S on this. You know, we...they were with us side-by-side as we discussed this with Ms. Buckman. And...and the...the maps are a good point, and we'll be submitting them when we...when...during the priority time. So we'll...we'll be ready, and I really appreciate you, Ms. Buckman, for all the work that you do. You know you...you said it, the...slowing down the erosion, and all of that. At the end of the day, do you think that all of this work is going to address a lot of the emergencies that we're having, the flooding and the fires? That's really...I know we all...we're all here for conservation, we're all here for, you know, keeping those watersheds the way they should be. But at the end of the day, how does that affect our floods and the fires?

MS. BUCKMAN: I think it's a long road ahead, but if we...we should have started a long time ago, and we need to use the...the infrastructure that has been publicly funded and invested in, in terms of fencing. We...we need to protect our responders, our helicopter pilots, all of our community. And planting is really a nature-based solution. It's a culturally-sound-based solution. It has so many economic and community benefits to just get plants on the ground. I mean, you can...you can coexist native plants, and seed infrastructure and erosion mitigation efforts with...with grazing, with education, with cultural continuum of practices. So the...nature knows how to do it best. They know how to do it better than I do. And repairing something is a lot harder than protecting it in the first place. But unfortunately, in the areas we work, we're...we're past that. So I want to make sure that we really do protect these last remnant native sources and then...that we really accelerate and are strategic with how we do restoration. And I...I really think that this initiative has given, like I said, me an opportunity to, you know, cross-collaborate in different ways where we can really look at it like that. And it doesn't matter if you're talking fire, flooding, erosion, food, culture, all of these things. What we offer, I believe, is a solutions-based approach. And it will definitely help; it will definitely

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

April 16, 2026

help --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. BUCKMAN: -- and it's...it's going to take time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, thank you so much for your testimony. Thank you, Chair, no further questions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any further questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, before you call up the next testifier, can I just let the Members know, my connectivity has been spotty again. When it goes opaque...when Teams just goes opaque, I...I know the connection is bad, so I look to the right. But when it's not that bad and it freezes, I don't always know if you're trying to get my attention. So, especially for those of you who are joining virtually, you may have to audibly try to seek recognition so that I can recognize you, okay? With that, Staff, can you please call the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Vice-Chair. The next testifier is Travis Liggett, to be followed by Scott Werden.

MR. LIGGETT: Good afternoon, Councilmembers. I hope everyone is doing very well today. I don't know if you're allowed to share screen, but I submitted pretty significant testimony today as a proposed amendment and will just really quickly go over what I'm proposing. So the idea would be to get the design work for the Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility disinfection so that effluent can be sanitary as soon as possible. So right now, that's slated for Fiscal Year 2028, the design work, and I'm proposing that it's a really good idea to put funding in that for Fiscal Year 2027 because that's actually not a commitment to do the work. But if the funding is not in the budget, that locks in that no one can do the work, and that does not acknowledge the uncertainty with not knowing who will be actually making these decisions as of January. So the idea would be to hedge our bets; it's a good idea to put the funding in there. And I have a couple places in the budget where we could maybe do this at...at no net cost. The first would be to basically withdraw the contested case for the Lahaina NPDES (*phonetic*) hearing. And by the way, this 2020 Supreme Court decision decided, basically, if it goes in the ocean, even indirectly, that basically the idea is that the effluent must meet the ocean water quality standard...standard. And what falls out of that analysis is a reduction from about 105 pounds a day of turtle nitrogen, dissolved solids, down to 8 or 13. So I've been thinking about this for a very long time and have worked with top researchers to develop a ready-to-execute plan. It's not a compliance schedule, it's a...it's a phased schedule that allows, basically, not to fight the very hard one, very high water quality standard, but to actually catapult Maui into, like, global leadership for a new system that's based on just about the oldest system, which is stream limu. If you've ever been to a waterfall, it's the beautiful green filamentous algae. And it basically does that function in nature that we're looking to do with our systems, which is to take surface water that's been collected and polish nutrients from it before it hits the reefs. It's just this elegant solution. And I've submitted both a two-page filing that the County could file to say that we withdraw our...our request to suspend the limits, conditional upon

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

April 16, 2026

accepting the plan, which I've laid out in an extensive motion. I haven't filed it yet because I really think this could...should be something that the elected officials could talk about. But really packed into this very small amendment is maybe a vote by our elected officials to say, does it reflect the people's will to just continue to fight these very hard-won limits, or...it's not even a gamble. It's just acknowledging that in fact the...the argument that no solution exists is not valid. I've presented it. And this is, like, really vetted. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . There's not just one but two. . .*(inaudible)*. . .Principal Investors. And the second source of funding would be the MVA grant for 1.25 million. I did my due diligence and there were some things that convinced me that it's just not a system that's well suited to government funds. Couple examples is pointing out a flaw in a contract and asking it to be corrected and that being a problem or not allowing, like, Federal grant people to vet whether or not like a core competitor for a competition could appear . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . at, like, a major Mayor's meeting. So *(inaudible)* --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Liggett. Can you please wrap up your testimony?

MR. LIGGETT: -- to pay for it with philanthropy.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much.

MR. LIGGETT: I'm sorry. I...I didn't hear *(inaudible)* --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I was asking you to wrap up your testimony. Your 30-second --

MR. LIGGETT: Yes, thank you. *(inaudible)* --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- additional time had expired.

MR. LIGGETT: -- and it's really like, just sign and implement the solution rather than fighting it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Staff, can you please call --

MR. LIGGETT: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Vice-Chair. The next testifier is Scott Werden on Teams, to be followed by Lucienne de Naie. (Pause) Scott, you're unmuted on our end. You would just have to go the top right...oh, you're unmuted now.

MR. WERDEN: Okay. My name is Scott Werden. And I am testifying as a resident of Ha'ikū and a board member of the Ha'ikū Community Association. The proposed budget includes money for a test well in Ha'ikū. This well is partly to fulfill an obligation in the 2003 consent decree between the County of Maui and the Sierra Club and the Ha'ikū Coalition. And a court...but according to a feasibility study performed by Brown and

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

April 16, 2026

Caldwell in 2023, this feasibility study was contracted by the Department of Water Supply, Ha'ikū is going to be a major focus on providing potable water for other parts of the island. It is extremely important that this well be done correctly so that the aquifer is not overcommitted. To that end, the freshwater lands is a critical part of the aquifer, and this requires a deep monitor well to fully understand the capacity of the aquifer. However, we have been told by the Department of Water Supply that it is not going to drill a deep monitor well, and we think this is a huge mistake. You know, the bulk of the cost for drilling a well, whether it's a deep monitor well or a more simple testing well, the bulk of the cost is in drilling the actual channel down to the...the water lens. So what we're talking about here is just incremental cost to properly finish up the well, and have it be a deep monitoring well. This concept of a deep monitor well comes from CWRM, so this is not a term we're making up, and it is the preferred way to fully understand the thickness of a water lens that underlies an aquifer. So the more we know, the better prepared we are. So I am advocating today that the Department of Water Supply budget be adjusted to make sure that the test well, as per the consent decree, is in fact a deep monitoring well. So I don't have dollar figures for that but, you know, the Department of Water Supply is the ones to really come up with that. But I...I think that the...the Budget Committee should work with the Department to figure out what that is and make sure that the increment is added so that the well is fully funded to do the proper job of it. I would also like to advocate...this is going to be a simple one because I believe our ask here has already been granted, but I would also like to advocate for a line item in the 2027 budget . . .(timer sounds). . . to continue water quality testing of Ha'ikū and East Maui's streams. Both residents and visitors use those streams, and it behooves us to keep an eye their quality. So our understanding is that our Councilmember, U'u-Hodgins, is...is going to propose that this line item be inserted in the budget. So, mahalo for that, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. And that concludes my testimony for the day.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much.

MR. WERDEN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Werden. We already had our day with the Water Supply. Have you asked why the test well is not going to be a deep...deep water monitoring well?

MR. WERDEN: No. As...as part of the consent decree there's a bit of negotiation going on as to where exactly this test well will be located. And part of that depends upon whether it's a simple test well or a deep monitoring well. And when we asked which one it was going to be we thought for sure they're going to say deep monitoring well. But they said, no, it's going to be a rather simple testing well. So that has been the extent of our interaction with them. They're waiting for us to . . .(inaudible). . .--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And they didn't...they didn't say why? They didn't say why it was going to . . .(inaudible). . . like, do they have another deep monitoring well somewhere?

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

April 16, 2026

I know they were working with DHHL up there. Or you didn't --

MR. WERDEN: They did not say specifically, but I have...I suspect they are going to be drilling other monitoring wells. But they should...you know, this aquifer, the amounts of water that are going to be pulled out are significant, the amount they are proposing. And the more wells we have, deep monitoring wells, the better off we're going to be. So there's no point of having two deep monitoring wells and one simple well. The more the better.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you...you don't...you don't know that there isn't already a deep monitoring well up there? Or they didn't say why the test well wasn't going to be a deep monitoring well?

MR. WERDEN: The...I'm only aware of a single existing testing well in Ha'ikū, and it is not a deep monitoring well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. WERDEN: I am...I'm not privy to how many the Department of Water Supply are planning.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh. Thank you, Member Paltin. Any other, Members, have questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can you please call up the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Vice-Chair. The next testifier is Lucienne de Naie, to be followed by Gretchen Losano.

MS. DE NAIE: Aloha, Budget Committee, and Vice-Chair Batangan, and Chair Sugimura, and Members. My name is Lucienne de Naie. I'm speaking on behalf of the Ha'ikū Community Association. And we appreciate the consideration you're giving us to restore the \$40,000 line item for our continuing into year four of our Ha'ikū Stream Testing Program. We were informed this morning that our Councilmember U'u-Hodgins is making this a priority item. So, you know, full disclosure, we just found this out. We're very, very grateful for that. We're just testifying here to support that wise decision. We did submit...we gave oral testimony at your local Pā'ia/Ha'ikū meeting, and we submitted via the portal, the eComment portal, comments giving some details about this program. In essence, it's important to support this because it's actually a partnership with a number of different research efforts. And we're the kind of boots on the ground because we're people that live right where these streams are. So we have folks that are young scientists that...we're making jobs for our young scientists that have graduated from Kamehameha Schools, and gone to UH, and gotten their master's degrees, and now they have something that they can do that's meaningful in our community. And they're running this program and working on other programs too. But it's important that this partnership with the Division of Aquatic Resources, with UH Mānoa Water Resource Research Center, with Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, all of us are pooling data together that will allow us to better manage this watershed that provides water for most of Upcountry right now. And it may not always do that. I mean, we're going to get more wells Upcountry, but this is going to be a source of water for a long time, so it is good to understand about the quality of the water, and, of course, it's

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

April 16, 2026

a major recreational area. How many people drive to Hāna looking for waterfalls? And most of them stop at Ho'olawa Stream, known as Twin Falls. So we've been able to help do more regular testing there. We've been able to get a stream flow gauge at no cost to anybody, installed there, which helps the State Water Commission stretch their budget just to putting partnerships together. We also are able to have baseline data for our own Community Water Authority. When they come to manage this system, we'll have five years of baseline...hopefully, five years of baseline data for them about how these stream quality fluctuates with stream flows so they'll be able to understand better how to make any adaptations in the system. So, all in all, this is a very worthy . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . program, and we're very grateful for your support.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can I ask that you please call up the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Vice-Chair. The next testifier is Gretchen Losano, to be followed by the Royal House of Hawai'i. (Pause) Gretchen, we've unmuted you...oh, I see you.

MS. LOSANO: Aloha. . . *(laughing)*. . . Aloha nui, everyone. My name is Gretchen Losano. Mahalo for having me. I am here to give support...to show support for the increased budget request for the Department of Environmental Management. We're included in the budget this year, we're so excited, for our School Compost Program. Yay. . . *(laughing)*. . . And, you know, this is going to be a really big year for composting all over the island as we start to transition to more regional compost facilities and regional management of compost of our...of our food waste, and our green waste, and also mitigating invasives. I don't know if you all saw the press release this morning, but last week...or actually a couple of weeks ago now, they did find a CRB at...by the airport. And so, it's go time. And compost facilities, especially with the technology that we utilize, you know, we can be an awesome mitigating ground for stopping the spread and containing...containing CRB and irradiating CRB because they die in our compost...in our compost heat that we utilize. So, at our baseyard, my partner and I are both, like, meeting...we're meeting the Department of Ag. next week. Like, we're on it. So yeah, regional compost facilities are going to be super important to support moving forward. So yes, please do support the increased budget request from the Department of Environmental Management and the EPS...EP&S Division. I also wanted to share my support for the Nāulu Cloud Bridge projects because, you know, I think a lot of times we think about the Nāulu Cloud as originating in Honua'ula or, you know, is the cloud bridge we see, right, from Honua'ula to Kaho'olawe. But there's also the lei nāulu, which extends all the way around Lāna'i, Molokai, back to Mauna Kahālāwai and back to Haleakalā. So this this something that...you know, as we're looking at all these different fire mitigation programs as well, understanding...you know composting is...is a way to deepen the root systems, and the soils, and supporting this Nāulu Cloud Bridge and the lei nāulu will...will help us keep the islands green and keep these areas safer from...from the risks of fire. If we plant more trees on West Maui, we will get more rain; that's how...that's how it works. So we're trying to bring that lei nāulu back around to...to West Maui certainly . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . actively with composting. So yeah, I just wanted to share my support. Mahalo nui for always supporting West Maui Green Cycle. And I...I really appreciate you guys, so mahalo.

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much for the testimony. Members, any questions?
Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I just want to say congratulations to you. You work really hard every year to get into the budget.

MS. LOSANO: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I feel your glory. Congratulations.

MS. LOSANO: Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Any other questions for the testifier? Staff, can you please call up the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Vice-Chair. The Royal House of Hawai'i was signed up, but they have dropped from the meeting, so we will move onto the next testifier and currently last individual signed up, it is Christopher Salem. Oh, I actually do see the Royal House of Hawai'i joining the meeting again.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So since he was...or...yeah, he was signed up first, we'll go with Mr. House, and then we'll go to Mr. Salem.

MR. PASCUAL: Got it. Thank you, Chair. Royal House of Hawai'i.

ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAII: Oh, it is my turn?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes.

ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAII: Okay. Aloha. This is...this is a member of the Royal House of Hawai'i and an allodial land Royal Patent holder. And anybody...so are any of the people, or foundations, or whatever, have they...how do I put this into words? Because I notice the many violations that these funds and what these foundations are doing. There are many high violations that there is...that they're doing on an international level because the lands that are being used for any kind of development anywhere in Hawai'i and any of the development that they're planning to do is all illegal because, in fact, all of Hawai'i is all Royal Patented, allodial titled. And...and...yeah, it's Royal Patent and allodial titled, and they haven't contacted the descendants of the original title holders, which is a violation of Hawai'i Revised Statute 172-11. And these lands already have been claimed by those original title holders, so it's their descendants that are now the holders and the steward...that is supposed to be the stewards of those lands but haven't not been contacted at all and should be contacted because I've noticed recently that many of the TMKs have erased those Royal Patents...the RPs and LCA, Land Commission Awards, and that is a violation on an international level. And...which is supposed to be recognized because it's allodial title and Royal Patented, and it assigns forever. And...yeah, can I have a clarification on that because there's many other

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

April 16, 2026

violations that are happening also because all those lands are being frauded by all those people that haven't contacted the descendants. And...yeah. So I request that you contact the descendants of the Royal Patents of the...of the original title holders because the lands are being frauded and going to many wrong people that are trying to steward it when the stewards are supposed to be the descendants again. And . . .(timer sounds). . . I mean, thanks for the restoration and stuff like that. But yeah, please contact the descendants because you're supposed to. And it's Royal Patented, so those descendants of the Royal Patents own them forever. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much for that testimony. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the last individual signed up to testify is Christopher Salem.

MR. SALEM: Thank you, Chair. I just want to confirm that the microphone is working today.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. SALEM: Okay. Thank you so much. Certainly, there's been a lot of testimony today that could, you know, cut out a lot of the branches of the tree, but I'll try to stay on what was the...the purpose of the testimony today. I'd like to address what's occurring in these Chambers during this budget process. You know, many of these individuals come forward with...with heartfelt stories about how programs funded by the County, often through nonprofit organizations, have such a positive impact on their lives. Those stories are important, and they reflect community support. I'm speaking quickly today because I have 30 children waiting for me that I coach in the youth programs, and I have done so for almost three decades. But there's another side of the ledger, and it was spoke very well by one of the testifiers, repairing something is far more expensive than preventing it in the first place. Isn't that the point of our side of the ledger? What we brought forth, and I've brought forth over the last 30 years is probably tens of millions of dollars of termination or financial harm and a destruction on...on a parallel environmental side. But as a reward for that, I...I thank and support the organization that deals with Mental Health Hawai'i. I'm going to shift to another topic that I wasn't prepared for today, but you can hear my voice breaking. There was a period here a couple of years ago when I testified before this Council under immense duress that was inflicted upon my family and myself by Corporation Counsel. At the end of that testimony there was a policeman...two policemen and a paramedic at my door. And I...oh, good afternoon, gentlemen. They said, well, we received a call from someone who's concerned for potential suicide at this residence. So standing in front of the policemen and the paramedics with my two children, wife, and an 85-year-old father-in-law that we care for, was one of the most humiliating experiences, certainly, of my life, but one I can attest I'm sure a lot of people in Lahaina are dealing with. I'll say for the record, that was a low point. Well...well, what was lower is that the policeman told me it's mandatory that I'd have to be taken to Maui Memorial Hospital [sic] for a mental evaluation. I'm like, come on, guys, that's not really necessary, is it? And they said, no, it's mandatory. So he said, you only have two choices, you can ride in the ambulance or you can ride in the police car, but if you go in the police car...anyone who

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

April 16, 2026

gets in a police car has to be handcuffed. So I'm sitting next door to the Balinbins and all the local families that I live next to thinking, I'm going to get into a police car handcuffed. . . .(timer sounds). . . So I chose--I'll...I'll wrap it up. I chose to go in the ambulance. Well, when I went to that, thank God, there's always a blessing in this, I was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat, which I attest was caused by multiple COVIDS working in the Mayor's Office. But here's the end of the story, I now got hit with a \$3,000 ambulance bill that I pay \$50 a month for because, at the time, after losing my position with the Mayor's Office for blowing the whistle on Corp. Counsel, I have to . . .(timer sounds). . . had no...I had no insurance. I'll wrap it up, Chair. So, I guess I say I support, immensely, the mental health side of this, but the point being is that was a low point. That was a low point. Those days are over. Accountability is now in play, which is the other side of this ledger. Thank you. I need to go coach children.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I see one individual approaching the podium.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Law, you have three minutes.

MR. LAW: Thank you, Jarret. Thank you, Hope Luna Ho'omalua Batangan. And...yeah. Thanks for doing the work for Tasha. Jasee Law from Kula Uka, Waiakoa Ahupua'a. Think we're the only district up there without recycling. You guys know who we are. Cardboard dumpster at Kula Community Center...Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, I...I distinctly remember her asking for that last year. Man, if it takes...if it takes a year for just one dumpster. So yes, we're in Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's territory. I saw down on the bulletin board on the second floor...I know it's not your fault guys; you just got to try to keep up the...the trash. And I ask everybody out there in TV land, please take care of your own trash. We only got a limited employees here. Guys with the...with the trash cans stacked higher than the bins, that's actually illegal. Please keep your trash to a minimum. With...and speaking to that one, I would like to request an additional position of trash inspector. They have...they have that in some municipalities. Someone rides around and looks in your trash can legally, and they put a piece of paper on it if you have any recycles or anything that's not supposed to be in there, then the trash man doesn't pick it up, and then they got to take care of it themselves. So, back with Molokai, notice a sole sourced Chief Procurement Officer is in the process of reviewing the request from the Department of Parks and Recreation for the sole purpose of the following good services or construction; refuse collection for three...three yard refuse bins and one six yard refuse bin for various parks on Molokai, Island Refuse, \$87,000. You send me to Molokai; I guarantee I'll take care of it for less. I know you got to go through all the government process and everything but, yeah, let's figure something out, guys. This...this...the United States is giving us money, money, money but it ain't enough that we're going to have to look for other countries. So, I guess that's about it. Yeah. And thank you for all the testifiers ahead of me there. There's people out there listening. I'm listening. And...and thank you, Mr. Chair. Oh yeah, one more thing. The cardboard stuff up in Kula, I'm glad that Councilmember Sugimura was kind of late because you're up there, and she would probably object over me. The . . .(timer sounds). . . Holy Ghost--yeah, I got you. Holy Ghost Church is having

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

April 16, 2026

their...their feast or their whatever they call it, the Holy Ghost Feast. And I started...I try to get them to recycle their cardboard, and I got kind of like in trouble for that with the...with some of the people volunteering, especially guy name Alan Vares is the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I object.

MR. LAW: -- Holy Ghost Chair that's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please don't name people.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura.

MR. LAW: Alan Vares.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I ask that any remarks be made to the Chair.

MR. LAW: Thank you. Any questions?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Any questions for the testifier? For the record, I had asked to preside over this meeting several weeks ago. I wanted the opportunity to practice presiding over...over these meetings. And Council Chair...or Committee Chair Sugimura, I apologize for not bringing that in. That was against our Council Rules, and I should have ringed it in. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Why did you ask to practice...for this practice?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I wanted an opportunity to preside over non-controversial meetings. So I looked at our calendar and said, DEM probably doesn't have anything controversial coming up, so I would like to sit in this seat for this meeting.

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For what purpose?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I just wanted to get comfortable presiding over these committee meetings before we take up controversial stuff after budget.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Is there anybody else wishing to testify at this time?

MR. PASCUAL: Vice-Chair, that's all the individuals signed up to testify. If anyone in the audience or Teams would like to testify, please come up to the mic and begin your testimony or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams, and Staff will unmute you. Here's a brief countdown; three, two, one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated

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

April 16, 2026

that they wish to testify.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, is there any objection to closing public testimony and accepting written testimony?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: All right. At this time, we will close public testimony for BFED-1.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, it is 2:51. We've been going for almost two hours at this point. I would like to ask that we entertain two rounds of questions, the first being three minutes for the first round, two minutes for the second round. I would like to ask for a break, though. So if you're okay with that, I'd ask Member Cook to lead off questions of the Department since the WAI Committee has primary jurisdiction over the Department of Environmental Management. I'll ask for a recess. And then I'd like to start off the...I...I...when we come back, I'd like to move to Member Johnson since ADEPT has secondary jurisdiction over the Department of Environmental Management. Does that work for you guys? Sorry. I had to look at the screen to make sure that the Members who are not in the Chamber were also nodding their heads. Okay, Member Cook, you have three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you. So, welcome Environmental Management team. It's good to see you all here. Thank you for your patience through our testimony phase. I don't have much time, so, basically, quick answers and...or you can just basically...we'll answer that in writing. Okay. On page 7.5 [sic], the R-1 Water Wailea/Makena Avenue professional services, 2025 it was 241,164, '26...FY'26 0, FY'27 0. I was curious, which study was that? Was that for the R-1 water going south? 7.5 [sic], 919052B. So much for my quick questions. . . .(laughing). . .

MR. AGAWA: . . .(laughing). . . I had to find it. Thank you, Vice-Chair. Thank you, Member Cook. Yes, that is for professional service to look at our R-1 water going south.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So I think there was \$500,000 was allocated for that. Is that...the balance of that goes somewhere? And you could tell me...and we don't get nitty gritty right now. Just...I'll put that in writing. My other question was, the disposal of equipment...and I'm totally supportive of replacing equipment, stuff that lasts, especially as hard as you use it. How is it replaced? Is it disposed, sold, auctioned off, scrapped? We're talking about the...those metal wheel compactors at the dump and excavators, all really big expensive equipment that needs to be replaced. I'm just curious what the County's policy is for disposal.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you. Thank you, Member Cook. I can't say specifically on what the County policy is but there is a combination of both. Sometimes we repurpose as much as possible, sometimes it's resold, and then sometimes it's scrapped. It depends on the

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

April 16, 2026

condition of the...the equipment that we're disposing of.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I just thought that was important clarity for the public. We're spending millions of dollars on replacement, so that's logical thing to do with it. On page 7-33, electricity, \$2,355,646 for the wastewater plant. There is solar. A few years ago, there was solar at the Kihei Wastewater Facility, Lahaina Wastewater Facility, Kihei Aquatics. I assume...just for clarity, I assume that they're mostly for offices and stuff. It's...is in...my plan...is there plans or discussion for the County to become more energy self-reliant since we have such large electric bills?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. So we are the second-largest user of electricity in Maui County. And the majority of the electricity goes to the equipment, the process, the aeration, and treatment of the wastewater. We already have the solar panels that you mentioned. And we always are looking at different types of equipment and technology . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . to better use electricity and be more efficient.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Eh, I think that watch stay broken.

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That was not three minutes. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Members, is there any objection to taking our...to taking a recess at this time?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, I would like to call us back in at 3:10. Okay. So this meeting will be in recess until 3:10. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:56 p.m.
RECONVENE: 3:11 p.m.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Thank you, Members. It is 3:11 now, and we are back...we're back in session. I believe I told Member Johnson he could kick us off after the break, but I don't see him on at the moment. Am I just missing him or...okay. So we'll give Member Johnson a few minutes to get back. And guess that being the case, I'll start with Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and then I'll work my way down the docket so that he will be next.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair. Okay. And aloha, Department. Mahalo for being with us today. All right. Okay. For the Ma'alea Village Association, I looked on the responses to see if it's the same funding or if it's different funding, or...can you explain why the 1.25 million is there again?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So that...the amount is actually 2.5 in the Fiscal Year '27 budget. And it's a continuation of grant funding to support them

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

April 16, 2026

getting off of injection wells. So last year it was 1.25 and this year is 2.5.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, 1.25 plus the 2.5 for FY'27?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, that's correct. The Fiscal Year '26 funding was for design and permitting. And the Fiscal Year '27 funding is going to be for purchase, delivery and staging of major equipment, including mechanical, water quality monitoring and other long lead time procurement items that are critical to the successful operation of the plan.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And did they get the matching funds, which is the purpose of putting the 1.25 in there?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, I...I know they have received some matching funds, but if you want to send that in writing, we can get you exact numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then how much in total are we expecting to allocate for this project?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. I'll confirm that with the Managing Director as I know he's had direct conversations with them.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, because I'm going to have to go look back in our meeting minutes from last budget session because I...I thought we were only going to stop at 1.25.

MS. MILNER: 1.25 was the initial investment. They had said, for this year, they were going to need 8 million, if I remember correctly, but not all from the County. So I can get the total project --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. MILNER: -- or one of us can get total project cost as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I can try. Yeah. But not...not the total cost, I just want the total expected from the County because I remember taking this out and then putting it back in because there was an expectation of matching funds. And then I thought we were only going to put in X amount. So I have to...I...I don't remember exactly. Okay. And then for the Maui County wetlands, in the details it says, to support restoration of Save the Wetlands Hui, 'Āinakūko'a o Waiohuli Kai, ROOTED Kekahi Me Ka 'Āina and other organizations doing wetland restoration. But the Maui County Wetlands funding is a competitive pot. Shoot, where did I put it? I lost it. Oh, here it is. Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Go ahead and finish your question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

April 16, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So it's a competitive pot of funding, 950,000, page 246 on Program Budget. So is...I guess, last year we put 200,000 for 'Āinakūko'a [sic] under 'Ōiwi Department. And so, I know there's...is there an expectation of the 'Āinakūko'a [sic] applying for this fund under EP&S instead for FY'27?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I would like to defer to Cecile Powell from EP&S.

MS. POWELL: Testing. Thank you, Director Agawa and Councilmember Fernandez [sic]. I'm not certain that they're going to apply for the competitive grants since they do have the 'Ōiwi one, if that's going to continue or not. We talk stories with each other prior to reviewing all of the grants applicants. And, you know, I believe this year we're including 'Ōiwi guys on the Grants Review Committee. So we make sure that we're not...like, nobody is, like, double dipping in funding sources, if that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, it's just that they're named here, that's why. And so, they were under the Mayor's Office, and then we put them under EP&S, and then there was just that transition, the growing pains transition for them, and they didn't get that funding.

MS. POWELL: That's the Aunty Claire guys, yeah. Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mālama Kakanilua was their fiscal sponsor. Okay. I can --

MS. POWELL: I'm not anticipating...my understanding is is they want to move forward with 'Ōiwi guys at this point, but they're welcome to apply for the wetland restoration competitive fundings as well, either way.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's just that they're named here, so that's usually not how we do competitive pots, naming organizations like that, unless we're going to do a line item specifically to them.

MS. POWELL: My understanding is that it would be a line item if it is named. I don't see where.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Page 248 in the Program Budget under Maui County Wetlands Grants. So it's Maui County Wetlands is the competitive pot, and then it says to support the three organizations and other organizations doing wetland restoration work.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. If I remember correctly, those organizations are listed as examples. But because the competitive process hasn't occurred yet, it's not definitive that those would be the awarded entities.

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

April 16, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's normally not how we do it, though, yeah?

MS. MILNER: Which?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Naming organizations as examples under a competitive pot.

MS. MILNER: Well, I know in Department of Human Concerns they do, but they've also already done their competitive process.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. MILNER: So it's a little different.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. MILNER: But because they are not named in the budget ordinance and the competitive process hasn't occurred yet, that's not guaranteeing funding for those entities, and we will update for next year . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Johnson, I apologize. I know I said we would kick off, you know, after our break with you, but we got started before you were back. And so, I went to Member Rawlins-Fernandez first. But the floor is yours, you have your three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Of course that's fine. I apologize for my extended break. It's...it goes as fast as our three minutes. But okay, let's get started with my three minutes. First off, to Department, I really appreciate all you guys do. You're willing to work with the Council, and I...I really like...I think your services are invaluable. So my three questions are pretty basic. It's...the main question...and you...if you need to do it in writing, you can, but, basically, I want to know how many people applied for the grants, all the grants that are in there. And then how many did...you know, how...how much did you guys deny? Was there a number? Like...like, we've learned that there was 3 million in asks in one department, but they only had a budget of 1.5 mill. So that's an example, but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Point of information, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

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

April 16, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That answer is in EM2 at the back. They have the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay (*audio interference*) --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- amounts requested and what was awarded at the back of the EM2 answer.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Moving on, then. Thank you for that point of information, Councilmember Paltin. You know, the...the one question I wanted to bring up was the...you know, we were supposed to look for cuts. Can we talk about vehicles? Are there specific...any vehicles that could wait for next year? Probably not, but I figured I'd ask.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Vice-Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. So I...I think we keep kind of saying this year over year, but we submit a lean budget, right? We do our due diligence. So the equipment that's being requested are critical to our operation. And, yeah, so I guess the simple answer is no . . . (*inaudible*). . . --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Fair enough. Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks. And then the last question, and forgive me if you did respond, it's the programs under the Recycling Grants Program, our successful pilot projects for waste diversion. How does the Department continue to support or fund these after their pilot project?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Johnson. So it depends on what the program is. Sometimes we incorporate a fee to support that project. Similar to in Maui Meadows, we previously had that 3 Can Plan Project. At some point in time --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . . (*Inaudible*). . . --

MR. AGAWA: -- there was a fee associated with that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Existing fees or creating new ones? That would probably be dependent on the service; is that correct?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. So once we initiate the pilot project, then we would have a consultant as part of our rate study under Solid Waste, and they would do a --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mm-hmm.

MR. AGAWA: -- recommendation on the fees for that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Great. Thanks for explaining the process. And thank you, Chair. No further questions.

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Members, I apologize for not doing this earlier, but in Granicus we have two letters. The initial letter and response, EM1, is item number 34. The second letter, EM2, is both the Department questions and responses, that's under Granicus as number...item number 100. So we did get the responses back from Environmental Management. Okay. And next up in the order that I had been going in is Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Before my time starts, I just wanted to give you a disclaimer, I might interrupt you and cut you off if I got the answer. And I don't mean to be rude, but three minutes goes by pretty quick. I did notice you guys have a lean budget. However, I noticed some inactive vacancies that were fully funded, some of them have been inactive and unfilled since 2019, 2021. Three of the expansion positions from last year have not been created yet, although they got funding last year, and they're asking for 12 months of funding this year. And then you're asking for another couple expansion positions with funding, but your creation of the positions or filling of the vacancies are not keeping up with that. So, just anything to comment on that?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Vice-Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So my understanding is that we have about 32 vacancies in our Department. However, I want to say about half are in active recruitment. So we plan to have those positions --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Of the inactive vacancies, they're not in recruitment at all, but you're asking for full funding. What...what's that about, if we can hone in?

MR. AGAWA: I'm assuming those positions are kind of hard to fill with certification required, but we --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But if you're not in recruitment there's no way they're going to get filled unless you DM89 (*phonetic*) or something. And if they haven't been filled since 2019 or 2021, why should we keep funding them? Sure, I can give them to you. From 2019, Civil Engineer III for Solid Waste Division; from 2021, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee; and then there's one from 2025, inactive Trainee as well; Wastewater Source Control Technician, inactive; Refuse Collection Crew Leader II, inactive. And then, meanwhile, we're trying to create a Civil Engineer V position last year, but we have a Civil Engineer III position inactive since...and open since 2019. So I...I'm not thinking that there's overall coordination with all of this.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for clarifying the question. So some of those positions we have plans for reallocation. I do not have a good reason why they were inactive that long. I know that some of them were...at one point we were trying to recruit for it... unsuccessfully. So many of those positions are either...was planned for reallocation, which we are continuing to do and working with the Divisions. Yeah. So that's our plan moving forward, is not to recruit those but reallocate those to positions that are needed more.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know if those reallocations require reorg?

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

April 16, 2026

MR. AGAWA: I believe some of them do, and some of them don't.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And yet you're asking . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . for the funding you're asking for regardless of which ones have reorgs and which ones do not? Because a reorg will take a lot more time, but it's not reflected in the months asked for.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, understood. I have to be transparent, but some of those vacancies are used to cover other costs, like overtime. So that is not the correct use of the vacancies, but that does help cover our unintended costs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if that's the point, are you adjusting the fringe benefit request because I think fringe over time versus fringe for hiring...or filling a vacancy is, like, 30 percent. So if you know that you're going to use some of the money for overtime, have you said we need less fringe benefit money?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. I understand it. I'm not able to answer that right now, but we can follow up in writing on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So nice to see all of you and thanks for your patience. I wanted to just ask you about rates and fees. And in your synopsis, you did say that there's a nine percent increase, I think it's sewer. So can you explain that, please, because it's going to impact every resident that is a customer?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Vice-Chair. Thank you, Member Sugimura. Yeah, so the nine percent rate increase for sewer covers increase mainly in operational costs and in the CIP. So operational costs increases year over year: electrical costs, fuel costs, salaries, and wages. So 9 percent, via our rate study, is keeping us in pace for those increases in operational costs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What about CIP? You said also CIP.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. So part of the rate also covers CIP. We have some cash projects under Wastewater for CIP as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That you're going to be using these to pay for, and you don't have any other grant funding or any other funding sources, it has to be from the rate payer??

MR. AGAWA: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or can...maybe you can tell me what projects so I can look it up myself, but whatever you feel comfortable with.

MR. AGAWA: Oh, I don't know if I can speak on specific projects.

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

April 16, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. AGAWA: But yeah, we can look into it and...and follow up in writing. We do have projects that are paid with cash, and some that are using federal funds and external, yeah, funding, like external funding bond.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Batangan, maybe if Staff could send that question to them in writing so that we could understand what CIP projects they're talking about for the rate increases.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh. Staff, did you get the question from Member Sugimura...from Committee Chair Sugimura?

MR. AGAWA: Vice-Chair?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . yeah.

MR. AGAWA: I think Wastewater Division Chief, Eric Nakagawa can shed some light on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Mr. Nakagawa.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Yeah, Chair. Yeah, thank you, Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Hi. Nice to see you. So, the...for the cash projects that we have, pretty much we have; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 out of the 12 projects are cash projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the rate increases --

MR. NAKAGAWA: And it's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry.

MR. NAKAGAWA: And it's roughly about \$10 million, right, in cash projects. But I...I think you...so...so I think I explain every year, right, that...and what Mr. Agawa said is that our rate increases pretty much are from the CIP, right? And we balance that out with debt service and cash, right? So if you...if we try to put all bond, right, we...you still are going to have the rate increase because you're just deferring that cost, right, until later. And then...so we balance that out until where, hey, we can do roughly this amount of cash project and this amount of bond . . .*(inaudible)*. . . projects, right? So I think, like, that kind of helps us, you know, bigger, global scale, right? Okay. We stay on track because if not, what's going to happen is you're going to get...let's say you save couple percent this year, but you're going to jack it way up next year, you know what I mean?

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

April 16, 2026

So we try to...it's complex, and we just...simplified ways we just try to smooth that thing out so that everybody is...is kind of normal, they get used to paying the \$10 more, or whatever it is over that time, you know what I mean, because if not, when you start messing around with all the different funding sources and we got to put it back in the rate...rate model, and then all of a sudden you get these spikes back and forth. So, like in the...we did it twice in...historically 10 years ago, 20 years ago, right, people were getting, like, 30 or 40 percent rate increases one year, and that's all we could do...we couldn't...and then all of a sudden, it comes back down, and then...then it jacks back up at, like, 20 something percent, and it goes back...you know what I mean. So our philosophy has always been for the past...kind of since I been here, 20 plus years, is kind of, like, keep that nice and smooth and then little bit here and there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So the nine percent, you're saying, is not unusual?

MR. NAKAGAWA: It...it's not going to be...it's not...that was last year, and if we continue with the projects that we already did...you guys approved the past six years and you guys want the projects for the next six years, it'll probably be smooth at nine percent for the next couple more years, and then it'll slowly go down to six, and then five, and then four. So that's just kind of...we're in that, what do you want to call it, cycle where it's a little bit higher this...these years. And kind of...honestly, just to be frank, because he's no longer here, right? But, I mean, an Administration, like, couple ago, he gave us 0 percent for, like, his last four term...four years. That kind of messed us up because now all of a sudden, with that 0 percent, now we have to play catch-up every time coming forward. . . .(timer sounds). . . So hopefully that makes sense.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Interesting. Interesting.

MR. NAKAGAWA: And there's only been one --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because it's kind of a lot, right?

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- one Mayor that was . . .(inaudible). . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I thought it was three to five, but you're saying last year it was nine percent also?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. And you're going to get nine...just...if all goes according to our little rate model, crystal ball, you know, all the projects we want to do, we're going to get another couple...but just realize, like, every other county is in the same. They're jacking everybody's up. And City and County Honolulu, like, theirs is...they're going to be \$150. They're going to go up to almost \$250 in the next five years, and even Kauai and Big Island. Every...everybody is preparing all their infrastructure now, and everybody's rates is slowly going up. So we're not...we're not like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Unusual.

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- out...out there. Yeah.

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

April 16, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. I heard the bell.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. I believe the Budget Director would also like to respond.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Sugimura. Just really briefly, on page 855 and 856 of the budget are the funding sources for the DEM CIP projects. So Wastewater Fund for this year total is 10.1 million. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just as he predicted. What...what page again? I go look.

MS. MILNER: 855 and 856.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Committee Chair Sugimura, Council Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Just a few simple questions. Director, did the removal and transport of debris after the fire to the new landfill, did...did we stay within our budget on that? How much did it cost?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Vice-Chair. Thank you, Chair Sugimura. I'm sorry, Chair Lee. My apologies. I don't have the exact --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm much younger than her.

MR. AGAWA: I don't have that exact amount. We can get that for you. However, the --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wasn't it around 64 million?

MR. AGAWA: I want to say that's in the ballpark. But the cost --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: -- for that was covered under the tipping fees that Army Corps [sic] paid for us for the debris to go to the Central Maui Landfill PDS.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So that was my second question. Let's say it was in the ballpark of 64 million, the cost, did we collect about 64 million from the tipping fees?

MR. AGAWA: Yes, we did. And our Solid Waste Division Chief confirmed that it's 54 million, 5-4.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 54. I could've sworn because I heard that number so many times after the fire. But anyway, in South Maui, are we progressing with retaining more potable water as our R-1 use becomes more widely available for irrigation?

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

April 16, 2026

MR. AGAWA: Yes. So there is almost a direct correlation of the amount of R-1 that we distribute versus how much we save in potable; it's almost gallon for gallon.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And a few years ago, when we first started the project with Eric Nakagawa, we...it was kind of voluntary. Remember, Eric, when you said, well some people would...are okay with using it and other people are not, especially those...so there was one condominium project that had a well, so they didn't necessarily need R-1 water. How is that going? Are we picking up more customers for R-1 use?

MR. AGAWA: I can speak first, and then Eric can clarify anything. So per the Code, if we bring the R-1 distribution infrastructure in front of a commercial property, you are required to tie in. However, I'm not too familiar with that property. Maybe Chief Nakagawa can explain a little bit more about the one that had the well.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair. All right, Chair Lee. Hi. Nice to see you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi. You too.

MR. NAKAGAWA: I guess your answer is...I know you like short answers, yes. Yeah. So, more customers every day. And that one...that one customer was Maui Sunset, but I think we worked it out with them.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Great. So, we are...how much more potable water are we retaining as a result? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: *(Audio interference)* --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Me? Okay. Thanks, Chair. . . *(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Or...or Director. I just assumed it was still to you.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Chair Lee, I mean, I...I don't work for Water Department, so I'm not too sure.

ALL: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

MR. NAKAGAWA: But Mr. Agawa is right. Like, so if they were using it for what...I guess you can say it's...it's one for one because whatever we're delivering, right, now they cannot use their source, right? So the only time that deviates is when they may have their own wells, right? And so, historically, you know, certain places, like the golf course, might have their own well. But other than that, like all the commercial, residential...I mean, not residential, commercial properties they...they using potable water.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Director Agawa and DEM staff.

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

April 16, 2026

And also, mahalo for answering all of our questions. Some of my questions have been answered. Also, mahalo to your regular metal collection events out in East Maui, it greatly decreases the illegal dumping that we normally get on the...on the highway. So it's very important. Do you have...how many do you plan to have in the next Fiscal Year?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Sinenci. I defer to Ms. Powell. I know that we are planning to increase these collection events in the upcoming years. Maybe Ms. Powell can give you an exact number.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thanks, Director.

MS. POWELL: Hi. Thank you, Director and Councilmember Sinenci. I...my understanding is we're planning on four. So once a quarter out on that side. But if you like more, let me know, and we can accommodate.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. Great. Thank you for that. And then my last question, Chair, was following up on one of your responses in EM2. It mentions that for...to increase the towing of abandoned vehicles, that the applicants would not need to follow the...the tow truck out.

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Thank you for that question, Member Sinenci. Yeah. So the process has been upgraded. Before, the registered owner needed to follow the vehicle to the off taker, which is Hammerhead Metals [sic]. There is a new process where they can do that through the DMV and not be required to accompany the vehicle to the disposal site.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. What you mean, the DMV?

MR. AGAWA: I think Ms. Powell can elaborate more on that process.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. Yes. So folks...the registered owner does need to junk the vehicle from...in the DMV. And then after that they need to be there when the tow driver arrives to confirm but they would no longer need to follow the tow truck all the way into town, especially folks on the West Side and Hāna side. We fine-tuned the system to streamline it for folks to utilize the program rather than dumping the vehicle on the side of the road.

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

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, DEM. I appreciate not only you folks being with us but answering our questions very thoroughly and providing all that information. One of the questions I have, after reading some of your responses, is for the Central Maui Wastewater Facility. You gave us, which I do appreciate, a potential high-cost, a mid-cost, and a low-cost. And it's like about \$100 something

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

April 16, 2026

million delta between the low and the high. When do you think we may know better what it's going to cost so we can plan?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Vice-Chair. Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. So you are correct. The cost that we answered with is based on Fiscal Year...the ending of Fiscal Year...calendar year '25 30 percent design. And that had --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- a wider contingency because we're only at 30 percent design; we don't have enough detail to come out. So to answer your question, we are working with our consultant on a estimated cost based on the 60 percent design, which has already been completed. So we anticipate a more accurate cost within, I want to say, a week or so.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, okay. Right on. Okay. Thank you for that. And then we've been hearing from one of our testifiers, Mr. Travis Liggett, about every day now for the budget. So I just wanted to give you an opportunity to respond to some of his concerns or let us know about what we've been hearing from him, but I would like to hear from you, please.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. So Mr. Liggett's concerns are valid. However, what he's asking is for a shift of funding of our CIP project from one Fiscal Year to the other. Now, I liken that to, say, uncle down the road whose road is bust up saying, I like you fix my road this year, but there's other roads that have higher priority, I should say. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Mm-hmm.

MR. AGAWA: -- it's not that the project is not important. And I met with Mr. Liggett last week for about an hour discussing this.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: But we have a strategy based on planning of our six-year project schedule where it's difficult to just move projects around, and it's not only funding. So if Mr. Liggett is offering to fund the project, that doesn't necessarily allow us to move a project. There's resources and how that project is compatible with other projects in our six-year CIP plan.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that answer. So do we have capacity in the current Central Maui until the Waikapū one comes along? And if not, what's our...what's our plan?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. So currently we do have capacity. We are reaching a limit, right, and it's not based on volumetric capacity. It's not the amount of wastewater coming in. It's more of the...the strength or density of the wastewater coming in. But we are working on pilot projects, two of them, to see if it has a beneficial

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

April 16, 2026

impact on our treatment capacity. We don't have that numbers right now, but we are hopeful . . .(timer sounds). . . that that increases our treatment capacity.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Vice-Chair. I heard the bell.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. All right, Director, my turn. Okay. So I would like to follow up on the line of questioning from Member Paltin regarding your E/P plan because I don't feel it's appropriate to fund E/Ps if we're not going to fill them so that we have cushion for overtime. Can I ask why you guys are proposing to decrease the amount of premium pay you're requesting by 20 percent if you guys anticipate the need for additional overtime pay? And if you need to respond in writing, I'll accept that too.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Vice-Chair. So the current way it is funded is that vacancy time will be used to fund the overtime. So it is not in premium pay, it's under salaries and wages. There is an option for the body to reduce salaries and wages and put it into premium pay instead. But at the end of the day, it will all come out of the Department's A account. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. I think it'd be easier for us to understand if the pot of money you were pulling from was the same name as the, you know, project description. Because, you know, it being...I don't know. If a fund...I...I would rather just see it in overtime so that we know that we're looking at overtime rather than looking at unfunded...or positions that are funded but not filled. It's...it's just more difficult for me, personally.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I would just maybe add that ideally, perfect world, the vacancies get filled and then it does come out of that A account rather than overtime. The overtime is sort of the backup plan, but I do understand how that can be --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- unclear when we're talking about it this way. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Budget Director. Thank you, Director. Okay. So I think I understand from the conversations we had earlier about how the rates for payers are calculated in...as far as your tie to your CIP projects. What I don't understand is how your cost of processing is calculated. So on page 212 of the budget narrative, in FY 2025 the actual cost of collecting, transporting, treating, and disposing 1,000 gallons of wastewater is 695. Your estimate for 2026 was 579, and then your estimate for 2027 is going to be 702. So while I think I understand how you set rates, I don't understand what determines costs for the Department. Can you help me better understand that? Because that is not a smooth curve, that is up, down, up by a lot.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Was part of it about the volume...people get charge by volume? It's not a --

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. But this calculation is on a \$1,000 gallon basis. So you would still think that even if it...volumes change, that on a per 1,000-gallon basis it would be more.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think last time when I tried to cut the percent, they said that you got to...you got to...everybody got to pay their fair share and maybe Mr. Nakagawa can --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Can you help me understand how costs are calculated?

MR. NAKAGAWA: All right. Thank you, Chair. Good question. So cost is...cost is generated, right, on...based on ABC budget and our CIP, right? Everything that we're going to go into. This cost is really just . . .(timer sounds). . . the measurements, and the goals, and the success, right, of the...how we provide effective management, right? So if you look at the...if you look at those costs, that's just a pure, hey, how much did we spend that Fiscal Year divided by the flow that we treated. That's all it is. So it's just kind of giving you a sense of like, hey, are we continuing to provide effective Division management, right? Are we managing our manpower resources effectively because we should be doing well every...every year, right? But the fluctuation in flow, so, like, for '26 is really because we anticipated there was a reduction in flow that year, right? And so, that's why we assumed that there's going to be less, and that was due to the fire and that kind of stuff, right? So when you come out with the estimate is we...we pretty much understand in '27 that we're expecting, like, those flows to come back up, right? And so, it's really...that's the divisible, right? So if you...it's going to fluctuate based on the denominator of your...of your equation, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. I...I think I understand, but I --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- might have to follow up with you offline.

MR. NAKAGAWA: So...so this has nothing to do...and just kind of for everybody, right? These are just the goals and measures that we measure, that we came up with. Like, I think it was 16 years ago, like, hey, how can we show that we're managing the monies you guys give us properly. That's all it is. So this has nothing really...in a way, like, has nothing to do with rates and fees, right, because rates and fees are calculated in...in...in...that was one of your guys' questions. Like, hey, how do you guys calculate your rates and fees? And the rates and fees are calculated on, hey, here's our projected costs, which...which is projects, here's our inflation, here's our certain inflationary, you know, based on tariffs, or whatever, we expect throughout the year and that's what the cost is just for the budget. And based on that budget, based on the amount of accounts we have and everybody's rates, the algorithm goes through the model and then it generates, okay, here's roughly what everybody needs to pay. And what Member Paltin was getting at is based on our Code of Federal Regulations, right, every sewer user has to pay their fair share of their wastewater. And that's just the federal regulations. And so, that's...kind of, hopefully, helps you understand like...like, this is just more of goals

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

April 16, 2026

and measures versus...and then this is rates and fees on this side. And I wanted kind of just to touch a little bit about...so you guys don't cut all my funding for positions, right?

ALL: . . .(laughing). . .

MR. NAKAGAWA: Like, we have no control, right, of when we hire people and when we don't, right? And so, we...we would like the ability, when we get somebody that's actually interested and is good, to hire that person, right? There are other processes, reorgs or whatever it is, in order to make that happen, which Marcy is great at and she works for DPS, right, and gets that very efficiently, very quickly. But I want everybody to realize also when we...when you fund wastewater...and these guys can defend themselves...naw, just joking...like --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's your money.

MR. NAKAGAWA: --- it's our money, yeah. So you...it's not going to go anywhere. So put it this way, right, so even if you take that money, you still need to give it back to us. It...the...the...it doesn't do anything. So even if...so always remember, at the end of the day, because there's questions about. . .(inaudible). . .that kind of stuff. All this does is it...think of it more as a bank account that you guys have and all you guys have, you man...this is what your guys' normal fees are, you try to cut over here, it doesn't do anything. Because really, it's just helping you, you don't have to fund it again next year, you know what I mean, because it's there, it doesn't move, it doesn't go away. And that won't really fluctuate the...that won't help you reduce the amount of sewer rates because that's a bigger scale which is really CIP stuff, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think --

MR. NAKAGAWA: So just...kind of . . .(inaudible). . . --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I think the Vice-Chair wanted to clarify possibly what the act for...for 2025 was for A category and B, C category for the Sewer Fund, and the Solid Waste Fund, and the DEM General Fund. Then that would help us see how far off or on we are, maybe. Is that what you meant, Chair Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: It was not, but I would love to know that answer because that is --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Now, he wants to know.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- getting at what I was trying to articulate a little bit better.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. And I...I would just like to state for the record, for BFED item 20, sub 22, the Department of Finance did send a breakdown for every department of their carryover in their A and B/C account. So --

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

April 16, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, nice.

MS. MILNER: -- just as an FYI, you can find that there. But I am happy to state it on the floor as well, provided I can get my eyes to line up. Environmental Management General Fund carryover A budget, 48,615; Wastewater, 1,973,376; Solid Waste, 327,572; EP&S, 251,708. For B/C account; Environmental Management...for some reason this is not listed alphabetically which also doesn't help. . . *(laughing)*. . . Let's see 460...453,269; Sewer, 9,840,665; Solid Waste, 1,131,152; and EP&S, 555,497.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Budget Director. And thank you, Member Paltin, for articulating the question that I did not know how to ask. Okay. Members, now...concludes the first round. I do want to note the time. It is almost 4 o'clock, and we do have the...the public hearing here at the Chamber later this evening. By a show of hands, who has second-round questions? Okay. So there are a few. Before we get into second round, I do want to remind the members that there are a few bills beyond Bill 55 which are related to...to the Department of Environmental Management. I know we have Bill 62, which would allow the Solid Waste Management Fund to be used for recycling programs and remove recycling programs as an authorized use from the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund. It would also allow the Solid Waste Management Fund to be used for landfill diversion, grants or loans for authorized fund purposes and leveraging funds to further the fund's purpose. I also know we have two other bills, both introduced by Councilmember Johnson, Bill 66, to establish a Climate Action and Resiliency Revolving Fund, and Bill 67, to allocate 20 percent of the County's TAT to be deposited into the EP&S Fund and require the Director of Finance to consult with the Departments of Environmental Management, 'Ōiwi Resources and Agriculture. So if anybody would like to ask questions to those effects, you are also welcome to do so in the second round. I don't mean to force you to, I just want to remind the body and the public that with this particular Departments, it's not just Bill 55 that we need to consider. Okay. So I will start with Member Cook again, and then my work...work my way down the...the row. I don't know what's it's called here, but the row of Members. And if you do not have second-round questions, just let me know, and we can...we can skip over you, okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. I'll be brief. So, Department, what is the status of availability for contractors and...and material supply houses to keep up with your CIP projections?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Cook. I don't have the exact numbers, but there is a concern about availability of contractors because of our upcoming CIP load, specifically related to CDBG-DR funds. We are on a timeline for CIP projects funded by that fund. So...and other departments are too, so there is a concern, but I don't know the availability.

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

April 16, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So I would just put...I'll just throw this out there to you guys, if you could help us with that, if you see that there are constraints beyond your control to implement the programs that you have planned that would more than likely end up in carryover savings, understanding we want you to do the programs, we want to fund the programs, we're supportive of them. But carryover savings is something that is just blown way out of proportion and this is an example, not through your fault, not through your lack of attention and trying, but because of the simply...inability...because of the Lahaina issue and everything else. So I just want to leave you with that, that if you would consider that when we're asking where we can cut, what we can do, my preference is it would come from your Departments, from you. And there again, it's like realistically, what are we going to be...accomplish. And I have one questions for EP&S. For the Wetland Grants, is that something that you're doing that's new for your Department?

MS. POWELL: Last year was the first year...in FY...FY'25 was the first year that we did . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . get those transitioned over to EP&S. And this is my first year personally working with the wetland restoration. The expansion is because we had to cut everybody, we couldn't fund all the projects on what was needed. So we're asking for expansion monies to do the work that's necessary to restore wetland.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Cool. I'm not...I'm not looking to cut the funding. I would like...and you won't have the answer now. But clarity, when they're talking about the wetlands, my understanding, a part of that is for flood mitigation and there's been so much sediment over the years that has been deposited. And I don't understand the wetland management, how much of it is removing the trees, and the plants, and everything like that, and the sediment to be able to then put the appropriate vegetation in and manage it.

MS. POWELL: It depends on the grantee. There's a combination of projects that do reforestation; they do fire mitigation. I...I can give you the scope of work for each project if you want. It...it will take a lot more than two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. No thanks. I'm just...I'm just putting it out there that willing to fund it, but hoping that there's a comprehensive overview of where we're striving to go, interaction of all the different players that are doing that so that we are ending up with a better environment but also true mitigation for some of the flooding.

MS. POWELL: We have an excellent team, EP, that's in the Environmental Programming section that's leading us, and we're looking at it as an overall goals. I'm in alignment with the Climate Action Resiliency Plan as well.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much. That's all my questions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, do you have second round of questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo, Chair. Okay. I went and I looked

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

April 16, 2026

in the meeting minutes. And on April 25th, 2025, I said I did receive the information clarifying the funding. There's also the million-dollar EPA grant they were able to secure that they would lose without this funding. This is not a commitment for multiple years. So I made that clear last year, so this shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone because I said it last year, and I'm saying it again this year. And I also said that there's no disagreement on the impact that they're having on the bay. The disagreement is how it'll be paid. And I asked the representative from Ma'alaea Village Association about a CFD, and he said that, at the time, that they didn't have any serious conversations on a CFD, that it didn't happen that...yet. So do you know if a serious conversation was had yet about a CFD for this project?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Vice-Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So if my memory serves me correctly, when we first met with Ma'alaea Village Association, we were trying to support them with funding, in general, and kind of brainstorming different ways that the County could support. And if I recollect correctly, a CFD was proposed as an option for them. And at that time, it was not favorable to MVA.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And so, I looked back in my emails, and I found an email from the Ma'alaea Village Association, and a presentation dated May 14th, 2025. And it has that...that this is shovel-ready for the 1.25 . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . but omits the \$8 million total projected cost and what would be expected from the County. So it...it...are we...am I to assume that they are expecting the County to fork over a majority of the \$8 million for the completion of this project? Because it sounds like every year it's just going to be in the budget because if they're going to not approve CFD and they got the EPA \$1 million grant, and that's why I supported it last year because there was going to be funding. I don't support the County fully funding this whole...the entire project.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Based on my discussions with the Managing Director, I don't believe it's the Administration's intent to fully fund this project . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or even, like, 90 percent.

MS. MILNER: Yeah. It is not a County facility, so no, that is not the intent. But as I said, I can talk to him further if you send that in writing and really get you the intended breakdown. Obviously, we can't commit for future years because that, at the end of the day, is up to this body. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Budget Director. Staff, can I make sure that that question gets transmitted?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You want me to send you my notes? Okay, great. Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Okay. Member Johnson, before you go, I just want to recognize that I saw you had questions and that you have,

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

April 16, 2026

you know, two bills that you proposed. I'm...I'll recognize you after the second round so that you can provide comments on the bills. I don't want you having to spend your allocation on that since I know you have questions on the Department. Okay. Go ahead, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't have any more questions for the Department. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Would you like to take this opportunity to speak on Bill 66 or Bill 67 then? I hear noes from your peers, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm fine. We'll...we'll just move this along. Chair, I appreciate your...your opportunity to allow me to speak. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering, what is your coordination with MEMA on the hot spot designation referred to in EM2, the County-owned parcel of land north of Cut Mountain, Kapū'ali is daily getting more and more abandoned vehicles in that grassy patch. Since the cleaning of Ukumehame. And so, now that hazardous area has gotten closer to Lahaina and any assistance you can provide to remove some of those abandoned vehicles off County lands would be appreciated. The second point, when you guys choose the West Maui Materials Management infrastructure, if you can keep me informed on the parcels that are being considered in real time. Also, looking at the Environmental and Green Grants, at the top of the page it says 460,000 approved funding, and then it says 494,187 at the bottom. And so, just wondering about that discrepancy.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for those question [*sic*], Member Paltin. So I'll just...one at a time. So your first question regarding the hot spot and coordination with MEMA. We do continuously coordinate with MEMA on these hot spot cleanups. However, our role comes in after a location has been determined. A lot of times it is related to wildfire mitigation. So once a spot is determined, they would coordinate with EP&S, our Division . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and we would support them on the abandoned vehicle removal process.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just a little concerned with all that fuel and then summer coming up but...and, you know, we've had a series of Kona Low storms, I don't want a series of more storms when everything is dry to spark another Hurricane Lane type situation.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. I appreciate that. And our staff are aware of some of the abandoned

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

April 16, 2026

vehicles in the area you are talking about because of other duties, we wouldn't be able...or we weren't able to have enough bandwidth to address those. But we intend to follow up on a lot of those vehicles.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And in terms of pausing the lithium-ion EV, MEMA is saying that they're finding them on the side of the road as well. So just...I mean, I know it's a fire hazard to keep a lot of them in one location, but it's also a fire hazard when you don't know where people are randomly dropping them off in the bushes too.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. So we aware about that. We are coordinating on that effort with MEMA. We have reached out to a consultant that could be able to provide EV battery support for us. And we have a meeting scheduled. I want to think it's in the first week of May with that

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: E-Opala.

MR. AGAWA: No. It is a national entity, I believe, that has a presence on Oahu. So our intent is to meet with them, ask them questions specifically about EV...EV battery disposal and removal and see if they can support us in that effort. And then on the question about the...the property for the West Maui waste diversion, we are in process of negotiating a certain property. And we are also looking at other properties that the County has acquired in the past, recent past, and we will update you once we have more information on those.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just me, you don't need these other guys.

MR. AGAWA: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you for that, Member Paltin.

MR. AGAWA: And then on your last question about the grants, Cecile can answer that.

MS. POWELL: Yeah, thank you, Director. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Sometimes, especially with these competitive grant monies, occasionally, with the review of the Grants Review Committee, we do exceed the grant funding source, in this case it did. But...but we utilize funding that was available in another...in a sub object code under the same index under this specific program. And the expansion position next Fiscal Year is...one of the EP positions is for community cleanups, to focus more on that, to increase our bandwidth.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Sugimura, do you have any second-round questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to...I'm going to read their responses because it was part of my --

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- request. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sorry. No...no new questions. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Member Sinenci said he did not have any second-round questions and then had to drop off the meeting, so Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I know Member Johnson didn't want to elaborate on his bills, but at this time I'm going to ask DEM to just give us a synopsis on what they think about his proposed legislation.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Director, do you guys have comments on Bill 66 or 67?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Thank you, Vice-Chair. If you give me a second to just review the items, there's a couple on here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Chair, just for the record, I...I said, no. Well, I don't think...I think Member Johnson may have been willing to, but I was going to wait until...until we pause, so I didn't want him to be blamed. I'll take the blame.

ALL: . . .(laughing) . . .

MS. MILNER: Thanks, Chair. While Director Agawa is reviewing that, I think I just had a couple initial thoughts on reviewing just the basic descriptions of the bill. Councilmember Johnson and I talked about this, and I know Councilmember Paltin is aware of it as well. But if the body does decide to move forward with this, in the Code it is considered to be a recommendation, not a mandate. It needs to be in the Charter to be a mandated percentage, so I just wanted to make the body aware of that, and Director Raatz can correct me if that has changed since we did the Managed Retreat Fund. I also wanted to add, I think if Councilmember Johnson's intent is that these funds would be solely used for the CARP. I think it might more sense to do it as a separate revolving fund as putting it into the General EP&S Fund. I don't know if it's as easy to track that that money is specifically going to CARP implementation, but I'll let Director Agawa chime in. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Budget Director.

MR. AGAWA: So, thank you for that question, Member U'u-Hodgins. In general, both of the bills we do support. One area of concern is this possibly could be a lot of funding, and our concern is if we have enough bandwidth to initiate programs to utilize the fund. So if there is a possibility that some of the funding could be used for potential E/Ps to help

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

April 16, 2026

support, then yes, we would definitely support the extra revenue.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Sorry, Member Johnson, I didn't mean to, like, step on your toes and asking them a question, but I know eventually you'll get to it. But right now we have them here, so --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- I wanted to capitalize on it. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good timing.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, I have no further questions. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Okay. Department, can I ask, then, that you comment on Bill 62? I'm guessing it's needed because you're proposing to move the solid waste alternatives from EP&S to Solid Waste. But would you like to provide comments and some context for the Members on your proposed bill?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Thank you, Vice-Chair Batangan. So this bill...you are correct, this is moving the Recycling Section from our EP&S Division back to Solid Waste Division. And I say "back" because at one point in time the Recycling Section was under our Solid Waste Division. It was taken out for various reasons before my time. Just to give some context, most recycling programs in the State...in...in fact I believe all counties, except us, have recycling under the Solid Waste Division Program. So it makes more sense to have the recycling program because their efforts support waste diversion, which is supporting of solid waste initiatives. And in addition, it just makes more sense for the staff of Recycling Section to work with the staff of Solid Waste Division because they do so already. So it just makes it a better streamline process. Thank you. Thank you, Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Director. That's all of the questions I have for second round. I guess since we're on the topic of additional legislation beyond just 55, I would like to note for the Members that there's other bills as part of the budget package. Bill 61 would establish a new Fiscal Reserve Fund to be used in case of revenue loss to mitigate the need for tax increases or decrease in operations. And Bill 64 would establish a new chapter on vehicle...or electric vehicle charging fees. Since those aren't with this Department, I don't want to ask them to comment on behalf of the Administration, but I do want to just note them for everybody's situational awareness.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you repeat those numbers...bills?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Bill 61 (2026) and Bill 64 (2026).

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you know the Granicus item, Bill 66 that you refer to, is

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

April 16, 2026

under?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'm sorry, Staff?

MR. KRUEGER: It's Granicus item 77.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Okay. What other housekeeping things do I need to do? I know that we have our...our public hearing here tonight. I also want to remind the Members that their proposals are due by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday; that's April 18th. To facilitate Members with formulating proposals, I want to direct your attention to Granicus 103, that contains a response from Corp. Counsel on when an item must be treated as a grant versus a contract.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Should we excuse them?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I...okay. Staff, is there any other housekeeping things that I should do with the Department of Environmental Management here? Okay. Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, we can excuse them at this time. Thank you, Director. Thank you, Deputy. Thank you, Staff.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for being with us.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. And what...with that, can I ask for Staff to take over on the housekeeping items? I know that there's a bunch of reports and some announcements that need to be made. Can I ask you to take lead in walking us through those administrative functions?

MS. SZABO: Yes. Thank you, Chair...Vice-Chair. So we'll distributing some reports to the Members. One of them is a preliminary report of the budget priority survey that was...that the community members have given us input on. So that has 215 responses as of now, but we still have two more residency area meetings to go, so we will give you a final report at the beginning of...of your decisions week. So that is one. There is also a copy of the...the...the grants checklist that the Office of Economic Development...or the Office of the Mayor provided to the Members, and that has been uploaded to Granicus. It is item number 154. And then last night we emailed the template for submitting priorities and we just wanted to do a quick run with you...run...run-through that with the Members to make sure that there's no burning questions before it's time to submit. So --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

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

April 16, 2026

MS. SZABO: One moment, I'm pulling up my screen.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. (Pause) And I'm...because Member Sinenci is not here with us, are there going to be bullet points on this? Or can I just have him reach out to you if he has any questions --

MS. SZABO: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- afterwards?

MS. SZABO: Definitely, we can answer any of his questions. So the first...the first half of the worksheet is just basic instructions that hopefully help as you go to enter in the data. And then there is an examples tab; they are just examples. They are not intended to imply any policy decisions. It's just how would you fill it out. So the first example is a condition of an existing appropriation. So you wouldn't need an offset for that item because the funds already exist and you're not changing the funds. The second example is a new appropriation with adding funds and a condition to that new appropriation, so it just gives an example. And then you will see there is an offset to that one where the funds would be generated from. And then example three is a new appropriation, adding new funds without a condition. And again, there is the appropriation, and then there is the offset. So, again, these are just examples. Yours might have more than one...more than two lines as you might have a couple places that your offset is coming from. And then after that, the big change is compare...this year compared to last year is that we created one tab for each of the items or the priorities you'd be submitting. So your residency area 1, residency area 2, Countywide 1 through 3, your revolving funds and your grant funds. You'll be entering data in those areas that are green. You may not need this many rows, you might need to add rows. So the intent was just to try to make it as easy as possible to enter the data in and then the examples to guide how to enter that. And, of course, we're here to support you if you have any questions at all.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. I have a question. What is the difference between Residency Area 1 and 2, Countywide 1, 2, 3?

MS. SZABO: There are two. So in the Procedures Memo, the Chair said that each Member could have two priorities for residency areas, three Countywide, two Revolving Fund conditions, and two grant conditions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Okay. Members, any questions for OCS on the template that was just provided? Okay.

MS. SZABO: Thank you...Vice-Chair, one more...oh, sorry.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I don't have a question on the template. There...there are a couple things that...and maybe I'm jumping the gun, so let me know, Staff. But for the Residency Area District Funds, it was reduced back to

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

April 16, 2026

140,000, and we were going to have that discussion on whether it was going to remain at 140 or if...we're going to put it back to FY'26 level is at 200. So at some point, I'd like to have that discussion. And I'd also like to have the discussion on whether we're going to stick with the two district priority proposals, three Countywide, two conditions in Revolving Fund, and two in grants because that's the suggested guidelines but it's not what we have to follow. So I'd like to have a discussion on that as well. Mahalo, Chair...or Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I see Staff wanting to res --

MS. SZABO: Sorry. I can address the...the easy part of that question, which is we're preparing a template for the residency area items so that it, hopefully, is a little easier to complete as it relates to the amount. And then the number of priorities, that would be a policy decision that we would defer to the body on.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Body. Okay. So I would like to not have that conversation while I'm presiding over this meeting and --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But you need practice, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, no, no. Remember, non-controversial --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You said you wanted practice. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- non...non-conflicting meetings. I would also like to have Member...Member Sinenci present for that. So that is one that I will be punting on to our esteemed Committee Chair. She...she can have that...she can facilitate over that conversation. This one is a peaceful, non-controversial, non-conflicting meeting that we hope to wrap us soon.

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Any other questions? . . .*(laughing)*. . . But I do note that we do have to have that conversation, so thank you for raising the points, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, and the deadline is Saturday, so...and we don't have another BFED Committee meeting. So I think it's on you, Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Bummer.

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess, Chair, would you like to weigh in on this? Like, if it's up to...if you're going to leave it up to me, I'm going to just tell people to put their priorities down so it's...it's in the template and then it's on record. And then we can --

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

April 16, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- have that conversation --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- at a later time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this was brought up when we've had several BFED meetings about exactly this. So it...it...it's not new information. And so, the Staff put it into this template format, as we did last year. They kind of expanded it this year, hoping to make it easier. And maybe James or Kirsten can expand on why they chose this versus last year's version, but --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess, the template --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- itself, we understand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: It was more of a question as to, like, how many priorities, what are the budget --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you for understanding my question, Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Since we have not had that conversation, the question is, how do you utilize the templates if we don't have a policy decision on...on those matters? And if it --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Vice-Chair, I think your recommendation is great.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- up to me...because I...I don't want to make the call, I am...or...and I don't want to facilitate that debate right now, I'm going to say, put it on the template and then it'll be --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- it'll be on...you know on the table for when we do have that conversations. Is that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, because it's due on Saturday.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes.

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

April 16, 2026

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

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Before we have another meeting, and I did not realize that when I was looking at the calendar. I just thought Environmental Management --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Departments.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- nothing controversial.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And Members...well, I didn't know that when I was making this call. I was...when I asked to preside over this particular meeting. . . .*(laughing)*. . .Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So I guess the guidance for the body is to put your priorities on...in the template, and then when we have the...the conversation about how many we can have and what budget cap who will be setting for ourselves and whatever other controversial things that we need to, you know, side on, we...we will...we'll...we'll have all of the information in front of us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Am I screwing things up too badly, Staff?

MS. SZABO: No, it's a great transition. But I think, if the Members will be willing, we would be grateful if you could prioritize those for us or somehow note those top two, three items so that we can clearly identify them. And then it would be easy for us to summarize all the items. Lastly, that's a great transition. So there's also a memo distributed today that kind of outlines decisions week. And so, it...we were hoping that the Members would read that and then when the Chair convenes this part of the discussion on Monday, the Members can talk about the process and if there's any questions, they could review it . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What memo was that?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee. Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So we're talking about the templates for the...the various priorities, et cetera. What...can you remind me, what was the limit last year on these items? What was the limit last year . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Since I was not here last year, I will not --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know. I have the answer.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, because I just pulled it up. It was two and five...five Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Two District priorities...or residency priorities and five Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then two and two.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You said there was a memo distributed about something. It's not this one, right? What memo were you talking about that was distributed?

MS. SZABO: Thank you, Vice-Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. It's Granicus item number 156.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you. 156.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, any other questions? Otherwise, the only other things I have on my to-do list are to defer and then make closing comments.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We'll be hosting tomorrow night at the Lahaina Civic Social Hall. I did not--can I say?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I did not request people's preference because everybody can just get whatever they want. There will be kalua pig and cabbage, I believe, smoke meat, potentially fried chicken, rice. And for the vegans out there, I'll make some tabouli if I have time.

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, potentially squid luau. I didn't go home since a couple days, or something. So I didn't check in on the latest, but that was where we left it off when I left home the last time.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then water. We'll...we'll do the small bottles of water but take however you much you want because I got 80 of them.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Dessert? Do you have dessert?

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, dessert. Still working on the dessert. And so, coincidentally, I will not be in person tomorrow because I got to work on Chair Lee's dessert.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, George.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. If there's no other discussion on the matter before us, I would like to defer this item. Members, are there any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

ACTION: DEFER.

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Okay. So for closing comments I would like to thank all of you Members. As a reminder, we have a Council public hearing on the FY 2027 budget, which will also serve as the Wailuku/Kahului Residency Area meeting following this...so this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. And tomorrow we have the West Maui Residency Area meeting in Lahaina, also at 6:00 p.m. Members, please also remember to submit your amendments, priorities, and condition proposals by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2026. Our next in-Chamber meeting is on Monday, April 20th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. with a presentation from the Department of Finance on real property tax and decisions. Also, if you have any additional questions for the departments that were not the...addressed today, please send them to staff.bfed@mauicounty.us by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. Thank you, Members. Anything else before we adjourn?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 5 o'clock, dinner and dessert.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member...thank you, Chair Lee. Committee Chair Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, just curious. Maybe this is a question for Budget Director, but because of Charter and when the RPT is due to the Council, when is it going to be available? I know presentation is Monday.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I could deliver it tomorrow afternoon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what?

MS. MILNER: Tomorrow afternoon, the 17th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. . . .(inaudible). . . --

MS. MILNER: -- because it's on a Sunday, but the presentation will be on Monday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Members. If nothing else, it is 4:00--oh, I call on Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Beg your pardon, Chair, I just, you know, want to apologize, I won't be able to make it because, you know, I had meetings today on Lānaʻi, but I'm there in spirit. Thank you, Chair. I'll be back on Maui on Monday...or Sunday night.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. And again, we appreciate your hospitality.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a question. Are we in person only because you could be here for hybrid.

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

April 16, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I actually don't know the answer to that. I know I'm co-hosting this...this public hearing, but really, it's Chair Lee who's the workhorse. I am the mere show horse.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, it...it is hybrid because it's a public hearing also.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Come on down.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: All right. It is still 4:30 and this meeting is now adjourned. . .
(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 4:30 p.m.

bfed:min:260416

Transcribed by: Tricia Higa

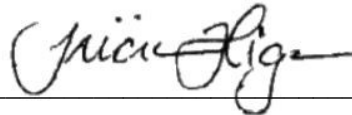
BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 16, 2026

CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 65 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 2nd day of May 2026, in Mililani, Hawaii



Tricia Higa