

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

MINUTES

April 13, 2026

Online Only via Teams

RECONVENE: 9:15 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Kauanoë Batangan, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Alice L. Lee, 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
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

ADMIN.: Kristie Wigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, Administrator, Emergency Management Agency
Peter “Kono” Davis, Assistant Administrator, Emergency Management Agency
Kapono‘ai Molitau, Director, Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources
Kekai Robinson, Deputy Director, Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources
Mary Jane Eusebio, Accountant V, Emergency Management Agency
Aulani Delatori, Economic Development Specialist I, Office of the Mayor
Chastiny Greig, Economic Development Specialist, Office of the Mayor
Emily Bartow, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Mayor
Spring Koja, Personnel Assistant II, Department of Human Concerns
Lauren Saldana, Assistant Clerk, Office of County Clerk

OTHERS: Travis Liggett
Jim Langford
Jasee Law
Others (27)

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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), and RESOLUTION 26-63)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:15, and I apologize for the delay. We had some technical difficulties. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, and I'm the Chair of the Committee. And this 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 Chambers, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Good morning, Vice Chair Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Members.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Member Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair. Good morning, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office, and I'm here and ready to work. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good. Member Paltin, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha, kakahiaka kākou. Streaming live and direct from the Council chambers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Rawlins...Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, kakahiaka, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I'm at my private residence alone and looking forward to today's meeting. The weather is good. The clouds are high, so Mokulele should be flying so that everyone can get here safely. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci, good morning. I don't see him.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, kakahiaka kākou. Here at my home office, I'm here by myself. No testifiers in Hāna, Chair. And yeah, welcome to the Monday morning slot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And good morning to Chair Lee and Member U'U-Hodgins, who I think

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are joining us in a bit. Oh, no, he's on. Oh, I don't see her. Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins, sorry about that. Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everyone. I'm at my private residence, and I have two adult males at home for the time being. One is my...excuse me, my husband, Koa Hodgins, and the other one is my son, Makua U'u-Hodgins. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Good morning. Our invited resource persons from the administrations include Budget Director, Emergency Management Agency Administrator, Director of 'Ōiwi Resources, Deputy Director...ah...Deputy Corp. Counsel Wigglesworth, and, of course, we have our awesome staff here. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting. We have one item on today's agenda, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year '27 Budget for the County of Maui. As a reminder, our...as a reminder, oral testimony was closed on April 10th but written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, today we'll continue our deliberations on the fiscal year '27 budget as this is a recess meeting. We have Maui County Emergency Management scheduled, to be followed by the Director of 'Ōiwi Resources to discuss Bill 63 on amending the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund. So we kind of targeted that for bringing them into the...into this meeting. And that's it. So at this time, I'm going to do rounds of questions. We have no public testimony. And so, I'm going to start with Member Batangan. I'm going to...sorry, I'm going to start with Member Paltin because this is your committee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett. Given the experiences that we've had this past fiscal year with the Kona low storms and the tidal wave warning, I believe a couple fires, I was wondering if you could briefly summarize what's going right and what still needs to happen.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Aloha. Thank you for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, and the cost of...additional costs of whatever needs to happen.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Okay. Can I begin with introducing my team?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please do.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, aloha, everybody. Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, the Administrator. To my right is Peter Kono Davis, my Deputy, as well as to my left is Mary Eusebio, which is my Finance Coordination Section Chief for MEMA. So let me speak in general, hopefully answer what your question is. I guess, based on the increased activations that we have been experiencing over the years...and I want to say increased, both because we've been just experiencing changes in environment and weather, but also the change includes what the community...the community is asking for. And so, what MEMA has done, we posture forward more than we've had in the past, which

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means that we activate earlier, and we activate with more people for fires specifically. And that's created an increase in budget request because we do that. So just in general, just so I can answer your question, there is an expansion of...a request for six positions. Three of those positions are also related to, specifically, the hazard mitigation section. There's just been recurring...excuse me. There's been a need to address the wildfire risk, hazardous fuels, countywide. And up until this point, there hasn't been a real stable way...consistent way that that's been conducted. And MEMA has kind of filled that gap for now. And that requires us to do a lot more than we've done related to hazard mitigation. Currently, there are ten high priority parcels in the county that reflect 1,100 acres that need to be addressed. And that's only wildfire risk. We're also requesting a specialist for flood risk. And we know that we've been getting a lot of floods and rains and storms coming to our county, and our flood risk kind of actions have been very reactive from MEMA's standpoint and not something that has been strategically addressed. And so, we posture and request an expansion for hazard mitigation specific to flood risk. MEMA has also taken on electric vehicle battery response, which is an emerging hazard. And that requires funding in the form of consulting, in the form of overtime as well. So I'm going to stop right there. Hopefully, I've answered your question on what is changing or happening within our county specific to emergency management.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And then the ten parcels that you had referred to, if one of them is north of Cut Mountain, as we talk about it or watch it, it seems like more and more hazardous fuels are stocking up. Is there plans to try and, like, you know, block the entrances so it doesn't get super out of control and closer to Lahaina?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So Cut Mountain is one of the ten high-risk, extreme-risk properties, parcels. There are multiple parcels.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Cut Mountain. North of Cut Mountain.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: North of Cut Mountain. North of Cut Mountain is multiple County parcels. Within the request on the professional services is . . .*(timer sounds)* . . . the request for funding to address vegetation removal, hazardous fuels, vegetation removal, which is why the budget requests are also increased. There's a ask of \$1 million for hazardous fuels removal. Just to give everybody kind of an idea, if it's a grassy area, just typical grasses that we see out in Central Maui, that's like an estimated \$3,000 per acre. If you're moving towards something like Ukumehame . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . with 20-foot trees, opiuma, then you're looking at anywhere from \$15,000 to \$20,000 an acre. If you're looking at ten parcels, 1,100 acres at \$3,000, that's \$3.3 million just for the ten parcels. And there are, oh...I think we assessed over 900 parcels countywide. And that's just...I wanted to give everybody an idea of what we're up against and adjustments that we have to make related to hazardous mitigation, wildfire risk reduction. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the million is what can realistically be achieved in one fiscal year?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That's our guess, yeah. That's our estimate, how many projects can move at one time. Primarily, all of it is contracts, so we could move multiple contracts at the same time. The funding piece would likely be what would hinder us from achieving those goals.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, I'm going to go to Member Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Administrator and team. Thank you for joining us. I know you guys are super busy, especially after this weather, but you're here today, and I'm glad you are, so let's jump in. What is the scope of work planned, deliverable for the Resiliency Hub Network? That's on page 197 of the PB. Is it mentioned...or it is mentioned that the Hawaiian Council will also work with the Office of Recovery on Resiliency Hub Operations, and that's a letter to the Council. How are these efforts coordinated? Is an official county plan or strategy guiding the establishment of the Resiliency Hub Network?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for the question. So community resiliency hub, as a definition, has been not clearly identified. I think the resiliency hub, as a term, began under Office of Economic Development. It's since moved to Maui Emergency Management Agency, which means that the goals and/or alignment of community resiliency hubs has changed. As we engage with all of the community resiliency hubs that is...it was established before it moved over to MEMA, as well as before it moved over to me, before I got here, there is maybe confusion on what we're going to do moving forward. And so, what we had done with the monies that we're moving over, we wanted to honor the community resiliency hub agreements that was set forth before I came here, and we had taken care of that. And the documentation was scarce. We wanted to meet those agreements, and we did. There was a remainder of \$150,000, there was a remainder from that fund, and we wanted to pursue a strategic plan. And we have been with an RFP, we've been going back and forth with procurement on this RFP for the past four months, and we're likely...we're trying to get a strategic plan organized with nonprofits and, collectively with all of our partners, define what a community resiliency hub actually means to all of us, and then how it works now under Emergency Management versus Economic Development. And so, hopefully, we can get this RFP thing squared away, and we can engage in a strategic plan and conversations with our community and establish a working network that makes sense with a budget that supports both sides. Right now, that's all I have related to community resiliency hubs.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Look forward to progress on that. Keep us posted when that does happen. I'll go on my . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I'll wait for my second question until the bell. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Three minutes goes fast, huh? Next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Cook, U'u-Hodgins.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Administrator Lonokailua-Hewitt and team. Mahalo for being with us today and for all your work in keeping our communities safe, especially in this last three Kona low. Okay. My first question is one that we...Administrator and I, spoke about a little bit offline, but I wanted to give you an opportunity to share a little bit here publicly. We love our MEMA Specialist on Moloka'i, who is full-time, Mr. Newhart. And when we went to Hāna last Monday, we got to meet the part-time Hāna MEMA Specialist, and understand that both do not have office space. So would you please share with us some of, you know, some comments regarding that, and how we can help.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Aloha, thank you for the question. Yeah. We've been pursuing office spaces. It's not a lack of funding, at least we've identified funding for rental space and lease space. We just haven't been able to agree upon space. I think there are some solutions related to Moloka'i and East Maui. We are having a conversation. I will send out an email to General Logan and believe taking...potentially taking advantage of the current armory space as a option. I know there are different details to that piece, but I believe that was the agreed upon best pathway forward for Moloka'i. I know that there is a office space in East Maui, with the Hāna Business Council, on a property next to the airport that we were trying to pursue. I need to follow up on what the status is on that one. With our new, newly promoted, actually full-time, emergency specialist for East Maui, we can get that squared away faster than we have in the past. But there are some spaces. I just got to follow up with Akaneki in East Maui to identify that space and take the next steps.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. I'm so glad to hear that, you know, as far as budget or funding goes, that's not the obstacle. It's just securing the location. And as we spoke offline, I'm happy to help however we can. This past Saturday, we had to transition to a online Zoom meeting with Congresswoman Tokuda, and the community did bring up about shelter and having it at the armory. So having that, you know, just a multi-use space for our MEMA specialists to be . . .(timer sounds). . . positioned there, that to be a shelter above flood zone, for that to be a distribution center with a commercial kitchen, for that to have, you know, the supplies in case of emergencies, just like all of that would, I think, work out really well there. So I heard the timer. I'll wait for my next round. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here and all of your work. It's been quite the roller coaster with the fire and now these floods and the...the intensity and the volume. So very complimentary and stoked with your department's doing, pretty much with all the county agencies are doing. I'm concerned...okay, I'd like to get a perspective of how the interaction between MEMA, Office of Recovery, and Public Works...and there is a synergy and an overlap that is necessary and very appropriate. I'm concerned about the long-term, increasing positions, civil service jobs, without having those overlapping interconnectivity defined. And so, similar, like, to be proactive, risk reduction model reduces long-term. I see possibly what MEMA could be doing to assess Public Works and identifying and cleaning out, and I assume when you're doing

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it, it's going to be contracting a lot of this work and not necessarily getting a bunch of employees doing it, but collaborating for cleaning out some of the gulches, cleaning out some of the culverts, identifying risk issues to bring to either the state or to Public Works' attention. Manhole covers that is doing the street drainage, they can fill with sediment, they can fill with debris. It's not very obvious. I believe Public Works does go pop the covers and do a reconnaissance. They also are relatively understaffed for that type of work. So I see that as being a legitimate positive overlap. With Office of Recovery, that's a little more vague. Recently, at the Kihei community meeting that the Mayor had with all of you folks...which I really admired the fact that everybody came to speak to the community. A little unfortunate the Kihei community was a little agro. But one of the questions was...and I don't...I can't quote it exactly. So just from...one of the issues with damage and how to report it and how to address a potential hazard. And MEMA referred it to Public Works, I think Public Works referred it to Office of Recovery, and Office of Recovery referred it back. And to me, that's not a big deal. It's just sort of one of those things that happened, that, like, oh, okay, let's clarify and address this. But could you give me...thumbnail sketch of how you have discussed with Office of Recovery and Public Works, this interaction of proactivity and not getting too heavy-handed with the overhead employment? Thanks.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So a couple of thoughts come to mind. Firstly, our flood risk specialists would support that coordination with the floodplain manager in really identifying in a more strategic way with action, critical actions identified, looking at flood. Obviously, to South Maui, as a heavy flood-prone area. That gives us a better chance to organize contracts and work and funding sources to hit projects that are long-term, right? . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I think that we work really, really well with DPW. DPW is in our EOC and always connected to what response efforts and actions need to take place to protect lives. I think we're fortunate to have the Office of Recovery, no one in the State of Hawai'i has its own Office of Recovery, to actually address this critical infrastructure restoration as well as this Human Services piece of getting, you know, Housing and Finance's support to our community. So we have a terrific opportunity. I think, you know, being able to identify that line when response or short-term recovery overlaps with mid-term recovery and long-term recovery, that's a gray line versus a black line in our response. And this is the first time that that's been really exercised, where Office of Recovery is part of this transition, now, within the storms. And so, I think we'll improve on how we coordinate moving forward, but Office of Recovery and MEMA are always seeking to connect and protect our community. Like I said, we'll probably get better at what that means and where those lines lie and what partnerships are required to do what...things long-term. I hope I answered the question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, you did. And I can clarify a little bit on my next time. But no, this is very good. Thank you very much.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U`u-Hodgins, followed by Sinenci, then Batangan.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. And thank you...aloha, MEMA gang. Nice to see you guys virtually. I think I was going to ask some questions, too, about, you know, how everything is overlapping. We see, like, OOR and MEMA becoming a bit more robust as a department, but Member Cook did. And I'm...in ways, I'm happy to see it become more robust. And even OOR, it is unfortunate that we have to, but this is just where we're going right now. We have so many disasters within the last few years. I'm so tired of living through unprecedented times, and I know we all are. So, you know, I would love some precedent to be sent. But I wanted to talk to you guys about goal number four on page 191, about the public siren system. So you folks know that the Kū'au siren is down and has been down for years. And HIEMA, we're still waiting with HIEMA to figure out when the siren is coming on. I want to say they keep quoting us like a year or so. And in that year or so that it's going to take to revitalize that siren, how do you think MEMA folks are going to best communicate with the residents of Kū'au to let them know, you know, what's happening, how to be safe, and all the things?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for the question. My thoughts go two ways. Let me begin with the siren system first. Yeah. The current process in which HIEMA identifies sirens, installs sirens, maintains sirens, repairs sirens, so on and so forth, in my brain, it is attached to funding as well. At least that's a big deal of it, right? And so, I know that we've had conversations about is there another way to get funding so we can stand up sirens in critical areas needed by our community. I know I've engaged in a Adopt-a-Siren Program initiative where communities could buy their own siren or fund their own siren that goes on the statewide system. That was met with opposition.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And so, I am left to follow their current process. From MEMA's side, and this is also in our budget, there's twofold. What we're trying to do is we're trying to establish a radio system that is used by our community. It comes in twofold. The Coos system that the police department is proposing, as well as our . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . mobile radios...excuse me, portable radios that we're requesting in our budget. And those are caches of radios that we give out to our community, pre-storm, or just stays with the community. And we use our community network to communicate via cell phone until, you know, that system is disrupted, and we move into our radio system.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I hope that answered your question.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It did. Thank you. I know the...you know, considering the proximity between Kū'au and Holomua Road and the hundreds of fires that have been on that road, it is, you know, a really scary situation for them. And we have been communicating with them and how long it's going to take and what they can do in the interim. But I just wanted you folks to say it for, you know, out loud and for the record.

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I know, I heard the bell, Chair, but one real quick request. Can MEMA please send over the list of the ten parcels that you folks evaluated for fire concern if you haven't already?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Absolutely.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: We'll do that by today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So we got that, right? In writing. Okay. Thank you. Member Sinenci, Member Batangan to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and aloha, Chief Lono and MEMA staff. I too wanted to express my gratitude for the first Kona low storm in East Maui. As you know, we were out of electricity for about three days, and HECO is still kind of putting up some of the power lines. But I think some of the things we learned from that first Kona low was about, you know, having enough generators kind of to keep the kūpunas'...their dialysis machines, those types of things, getting the information out, so maybe getting more Starlinks in East Maui. And then, of course, after three days, well, the water pumps, you know, we had to try and get generators out to have the...run the water pumps. So those are just kind of the things we learned at the first Kona low storm. So, mahalo for having Akaneki kind of take the wheel from here on out. One of the other things was...and mahalo for sending all the food supplies after the third day. I think one of the stores has an agreement with Red Cross. So all of their perishable foods, they'll give it to Red Cross and then Red Cross can kind of distribute them at the shelters. Is there any funding that could at least acquire the perishables at some of the stores so that we can access...I mean, we're grateful for sending all the food out. But in the interim, is there something that the department can help with acquiring the perishable foods at the stores?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I got to check on that exact situation you're talking about. I am unaware of that particular thing. I think what I want to say is that is also captured in our budget, is the \$380,000 has been identified to support activations. And that would be how we would support all of the communities. \$380,000 is actually a smaller number. But whether it's refrigeration trailers, whether it's generators, whether it's fuel trailers, so on and so forth, finding out and identifying what East Maui needs and all of our communities need as they're cut off is something that we still have to explore. Our staff specialists allow us to get closer and closer to those details because we actually have, now, people in those communities that know the communities very well. I'm not sure about the perishable food situation in specific, but the idea is to be able to support our isolated communities with resources like refrigeration and generators in activation. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo. Yeah. We can work...we can work with Akaneki on that. . . .(timer sounds). . . And I heard the bell. But just, I also wanted to mahalo

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MEMA for keeping the guards up at Twin Falls. I think keeping...keeping the tour traffic out for at least for a couple of days helped to get all those first responders and to get out there and kind of clean the road and fix those. So, mahalo for that. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I will...Member Batangan, Vice Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Administrator, for being here. Thank you to your team as well for all your hard work. How many of your EPs are currently being filled with DM-89s?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Four.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And are there any plans to move towards full hires for these four positions? Or do you anticipate keeping them...keeping DM-89s over and over and over?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So two of the four are going to be filled with county posi...full-time county positions. The other two is...which includes myself, is my . . .(inaudible). . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I didn't realize...okay. Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: All right. And then how many of your employees regularly go into the field?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So for hazard mitigation, that's a big change that we've made. A lot of us go into the field now. I mean, all of us, our whole team. In Ukumehame and Wai'ale project, it requires coordination from...it requires coordination for all of the partners doing various tasks, which includes a management team, which is our MEMA staff that support the partners doing what is deemed as necessary to be done. So in the field, hazard mitigation is where we go in the field more so than others. And then in isolated communities, those three positions are all field positions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. And the uniform allowances are for individuals, or is this department-wide, like vests or jackets or something that you would give whenever a person needs to go out into the community?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So the uniforms that you see, the navy blue, that's our official MEMA uniforms. We have broken that into operational and administrative positions, which means that the operations guys get, you know, four polos where an administrative position, like our finance chief, would have one.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Okay. And then I think I understood what you were explaining to Member Cook on the recovery side. But on the mitigation side, I don't think I'm clear yet on MEMA's role and how it coordinates with different departments and even some community organizations because I see elsewhere in the budget that there are grants to help with some of these same activities. So I guess I'm just trying to

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understand what is duplicative in the budget and then what is unique to MEMA.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So let's go with Ukumehame as a hazard mitigation project. That one involved cultural site protection. That one involved wetlands and DLNR. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . It includes DEM and DPW have responsibilities to different aspects of an encampment clearance, which also brings in human concerns. The police department also have a core program that is part of the notification side of a mitigation project with an encampment. The Mayor's office also participates in that. Our outreach specialist also participates in that. MEMA is responsible for the collective coordination of all of those partners.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Administrator. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have...is Chair Lee here? No. She's not here yet. So I have a couple of questions. Grateful that there's a presidential disaster declaration that was signed. So that's what we were all waiting for in order to get federal funding. So once this is signed, how does MEMA interact with this? Or do you not? Is it just financial and money flows through that? Or are there any specific things that MEMA must do in order to activate the funding?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It's primary cost recovery. What happens in different ways...like, a presidential declaration would enable a PA program, the PA, the public assistance program. It's also enable hazard mitigation program. What happens is departments apply for different projects in the hazard mitigation program. We facilitate the grants portion of that under the request...by the request of the department. So we just connect and make sure that the cost recovery pieces are being a draft following within FEMA reimbursement guidelines and being able to provide support to the collective reimbursement process.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I understand. I do know that MEMA has taken an active role or bigger role in recovery. And based upon some of the questions that you have answered, you have Office of Recovery as well as MPD and Maui Fire Department, right, as a critical piece. So if there's an activation, that the EOC then is set up, who does what, and who...how do you interact with all of this, and who listens to who?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for the question. So in general, the Maui EOC is a coordination and support function. The authority comes from the Mayor, comes through HRS 127A, and we basically coordinate and support all of the departments working together. So we don't move resources, command resources, and position resources without our responders...responding agencies weighing in on all of those things. I think that was a common problem in the past where MEMA fulfilled a more command and control function, and that's not the function of emergency management. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So Police and Fire and every department works in coordination with MEMA. All we're doing is aligning those actions and activities to support life-saving measures. I hope that answered your question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I'll come back with a second round. All right, Member Paltin. Three

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minutes again. I think everybody has plenty of questions for this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Administrator Lonokailua-Hewitt. Following up on Member U'u-Hodgins' question, for the ten sites, if you could put estimated dollar amounts for those cleanups. If our priorities are certain sites in certain districts, it's been asked by the administration to give a white paper, but since, you know, like 3.3 million is the total and one million is being requested, if Councilmembers put in money for additional contracts to clean up additional sites, maybe in their district, would you still need a white paper or you already know because you know?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I think we know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then I seen in the program budget, I think we give 55,000 to American Red Cross, and I think that says about operating the shelters. And with the frequent activations, we had other people come in to operate the shelters. How does the money get allocated? Like, if other groups, would they receive some of the 55,000, or how does that work?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for that question. So a couple of thoughts. The first one being that Red Cross is a valued partner but is in transition, and their capacity to fund or shelter multiple shelters like they potentially have done in the past is not the situation right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think I might have also seen that they didn't put in an application to get the money. Is that...was that old or new information?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That's correct. They did not apply.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could it be available to some of the other groups that stepped in to operate the sites? Would it require, like, a budget amendment?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I guess I could look into that. I definitely don't want to necessarily pull away from that particular funding because they are a valued partner. I would have to look into how else we could provide sheltering. Community resiliency hubs would be a potentiality for that. Our CERT program, as far as volunteers is concerned, is another pathway for that. Currently, what we have been doing is we've been standing up county facilities versus state facilities, and state facilities is where Red Cross comes into it. We want to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Sorry. And then one other question. Sorry to interrupt. I'd ask, I think, Parks because most of our buildings are being retrofitted to get a Category 3 hurricane, but when . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Hurricane Lane was Category 5, and they wouldn't recommend putting folks in a rated Category 3 shelter for, like, a Category 5. I don't think we have a Category 5 shelter. And so, what would you do?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That's a good question. I mean, we...when I first got in, we explored Category 5s and wasn't able to find a reasonable pathway of --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Create...trans...um, retrofitting?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Retrofitting or brand new as well, simply because it's super expensive and then the bed spaces are limited. So I have to explore again where we go from 3 to 4 to 5 and what is reasonable across the county, how we achieve that. I think there's some other solutions that may be available, but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, because you don't need it until you need it, and then when you need it. and you don't have it, then you're in a problem.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. I think potentially new facilities --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Better.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and then being able to get that to a higher rating would probably be the best idea. And where that goes, how does that contribute to the actual project funding, you know, that's something that I got to figure out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My second question is basically answered through other Councilmembers, but I do have another question in regards to the CARP, the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan that is with EPNS. Are you guys coordinating with them at all? Because you talked about, like, being reactive and having, you know...I would also agree with you that we should be more proactive. So have you been working with EPNS with the CARP when it comes to any kind of input, any kind of work together on that one?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I have not. No real excuses other than just being able to engage in those conversations and plans in a more committed way, and I just haven't been able to do it with all that's been going on.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I know you spin a lot of plates. You know, one of my priorities is to bring back the Nāulu Cloud Bridge with a lot of reforestation, work with those non-profits that are up in the mountain. Doing that kind of work. I know long-term, that's important to stop the big disasters coming. Are you guys doing any kind of work in that regard, the long-term type of planning, coordinating?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Honestly, we have not been in the way that we should be.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I know that the reforestation, it's not immediate, right? But it will eventually help with the flooding. So I know that this might be room to move, you know. And if it's a budget thing, if it's a financial thing, let us know. It's budget season. If there's...I know I'm really impressed with the idea of bringing in a flood coordinator.

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What's the status on that? Are they hired? Are they in process? Do you have to do anything with personnel?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: They're part of the FY27 proposal. So as soon as we get that position, then those approved positions or funding, then we will pursue hiring.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Great, because, you know, it's all interconnected. The fires and the droughts are all interconnected. So we have more people who are specializing fires and droughts and reforestation. I think there is...we're creating resiliency in many ways. So I just...I wanted to bring that up. It sounds like, you know, there's, there's...well, we all have room for improvement, right? But there sounds like there could be something we could look, maybe pivot towards long-term. And if there's anything in the budget that you think we could do more, let us know because I am going to use one of my priorities for the Nāulu Cloud Bridge and that reforestation projects. But I'm sure, working together, we could probably find more. So anything you guys, you know, feel, let us know. I think this body and the way the community's been talking about just lived an experience of going through one disaster after the next, I don't think you're going to have any pushback when it comes to any kind of budget issues.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Cook, then U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. Member Cook kind of started asking the question I had regarding, like, the how it's going to...how the collaboration with MEMA and Office of Recovery is going to work. So I'll let him continue that line of questioning on his next round. So for -- instead, I wanted to follow up on your goal four and five in the program budget. Goal four: enhance public information, alerts, warning systems, and goal five: strengthen hazard mitigation strategies to reduce disaster risk. In the Moloka'i Community Plan, Chapter 4, Hazards: issue number one is there's low public awareness about hazard preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. And then the proposed policies for our community plan, one, promote public education about natural and human-induced hazards to improve preparedness and response to reduce hazard risk and impacts. Two, support a more coordinated emergency response system that includes clearly defined and mapped evacuation routes and Red Cross-approved shelters located away from areas susceptible to natural hazards. And three, support and advocate for better preparedness capacity by improving interagency planning, coordination, and implementation. So goals four and five in the program budget, I think kind of, like, speak to this. Do you have an update on, like, the evacuation routes and educational campaign for, like, the community? Just keep everyone informed on what to do and how to be best prepared.

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, thank you for the question. Part of the answer is related to our inability to get our positions staffed for various reasons. I'm happy to say that we have staffed the internal... the entire, excuse me, external affairs sections with three personnel that allows us to effectively engage in the public education piece. Our public information officer was just hired in March. Part of our strategy more than a year ago was to open up workshops per district, which brings the community in to collectively identify the different threats that exist in each geographic location. Not all threats threaten each geographic location the same. There's also situational awareness of pieces like . . .(timer sounds). . . prevailing winds and different rivers that flow and the names of those rivers and that education of what that is. And then there's an...in that workshop piece, there's really understanding the vulnerability and engaging with the community in that. There's also understanding what the services available are. And in that piece, you're going to see a gap, and we want to be able to educate the community on this is a gap that collectively we have to find a way to solve until more long-term solutions can be available to us. So there is a plan into FY27 for this public education campaign that includes district, geographic-specific workshops that bring in all those pieces. What I also wanted to say is that what gives us a best chance to bring education and hazard mitigation programs into alignment with response is the isolated community specialists. Without an isolated community specialist, I do not know and cannot know what is specific to Moloka'i. And now, that gives us the best chance, with Justin in Moloka'i, and really helping us through that. The expansion of the hazard mitigation section also gives us a better chance to identify hazard mitigation projects that can support all of our community, as well as hazard mitigation grants that could fund an ongoing responsible flood program and wildfire risk program. But without these positions, they remain ideas and nobody can hold onto it. So I think we're in a position to do better work for Moloka'i and for the collective community regarding public education and hazard mitigation.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Administrator, for that comprehensive response. And I hope that the salaries and benefits isn't one of the reasons that you're finding it challenging to fill those positions. It could be, and we're trying to figure out a way to address that. And then mahalo for bringing up the rivers because there's been new rivers with this last flood. And so, I'm working with Chief Ventura on trying to get cameras up to the places that often flood the roads, making it impassable, specifically our highway, our one highway. And so, I don't know if that's something that's been on your radar, but if we wanted to all like, work together on that, that would be incredible, especially Kaunakakai River, that one often overflows and then that cuts off the island.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Next, we have Member Cook followed by Member U'u-Hodgins and Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for this very dynamic, constructive conversation. That's exciting. How much do you use GIS? And I want to keep this...I want you to be brief because I want to get a lot in this conversation, okay? I feel that that's one tool that can be amplified and used more comprehensively. I asked Public Works when they were here. You know, they had their...they've done 3,000 feet of sidewalk, and they've done this and that, and I said, is there a map and a way that we

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could see that so the constituents would have a better understanding? And it's like they don't really have that up to speed. I think planning has the GIS, but it's not countywide. I want to also just state, security is a big issue with these things. You can't have every single aspect of water, wastewater, electric, and everything just totally transparent. So you have to have layering of security for who can see it and who can use it. But do you use GIS, and would that technology assist your department and the interface with Public Works, with everybody?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes. So we have a GIS analyst in MEMA, and that was part of our expansion last year. So yes, GIS is super important to us. Our GIS analyst has been working on a couple of things. One of the things that he's been able to do for us, among a list of things, but one of the things that stands out is being able to create a flood overlay into our...connected to our dam information, and how those things are overlaid into our Genasys Protect. So we can actually look at Genasys Protect, use Genasys Protect and that flood overlay for a dam overtopping to evacuate folks way faster than we ever could. And so, that's true GIS. GIS is also supporting the wildfire risk reduction program, which is to identify all of the parcels and some...so there's wildfire parcels, as well as there's wildfire corridors, which is two different things. And we are attempting to map out all of these things, and then the project work, as far as maintenance of all of these parcels, and being able to get feeds into the information related to the overall well-being of --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm going to interrupt you. That's...correct, you're saying all the benefits. So do you feel that it is a active work in progress countywide, or could there be some attention to improve it so that...just broadly? I mean, Public Works, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . when you're going to do all the flood mitigation and stuff, and...to abuse my time, working...your department, working with the state, DLNR, and the county, and the ranches to address the issues up the mountain, and to be a catalyst or implement the political will to actually address these issues? Because they're never going to be solved from the Pi'ilani down. Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Obviously, we had those Kona lows that brought all the rain, and now everything is green, lush, and growing, which we love for now. And then in a few months, after it's all grown, it's going to be dry and dead, and a huge wildfire concern. So what's our plan for the next few months for mitigation, for communication with the community on our end, and what should the community do to ensure that we are as safe as we can be?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Thank you for that question. Yes, you're correct. The green grasses will dry out and become a wildfire risk, and that is countywide, and, therefore, how do we address it? Some of the key areas, like Holomua Road or off of Baldwin, is private. So there's an opportunity there with private owners that have resources to address some of the wildfire mitigation. We do have a wildfire coordination group for the county, which includes DLNR, DOFA, HWMO, MEMA, as well as Maui Fire, that meet and discuss priorities on areas of concern. What we need to

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add to that group is the private landowners in a better way. Utilizing and leveraging GIS to help us understand the common operating picture would also be a part of that as well. You know, I don't have exact actions.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: But we are working on the coordination.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Awesome. Thank you. Yeah. I think we're just going to have to plan for the eventual dry summer. Since Chair Lee is not here, I'm going to ask a question about Pi'ihana Farms and the coordination it requires between like, private land, since you just brought that up, and then like, public interfacing and like, the responsibility to the community. So Pi'ihana Farms, as you know, is a concern, but it is private land. Where do we work out the balance between public safety and then private lands, and where does MEMA fall into that?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for that question. What I would want to say is that...what I want to say is that my particular focus is the threat, and therefore the threat in Pi'ihana Farms exists. The threat in Holomua exists. The threat in Cut Mountain exists. I...if I had identified funding, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .then I would take action. I could take action related to clearing up or reducing those risks. I think, for my part and for everybody's part, I need to have a comprehensive action plan that involves the ten priority parcels, as well as the five high-risk corridors and the pricing that Councilman Tamara *[sic]* is asking for to effectively take reasonable and responsive actions for all of us. And those things are almost complete. There is a presentation to the Mayor as well, soon, that brings all the pieces together and tries to give us a pathway forward.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for that. We have private lands that are a concern when it comes to mitigation, and we have public lands that are also a concern for safety, but it's interesting finding the balance of what we can and cannot do and the differences between private land and public land. I appreciate your answer. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Member Sinenci, followed by Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Keani...or Member Rawlins-Fernandez talked about some new streams that are occurring on Moloka'i, and we've seen significant damage up at 'Iao Stream. When we're addressing streams, kahawai, does the department have to go through CWRM if we're conducting any type of stream removal, those types of things, or having to write permits to access the freshwater streams?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for your question. I'm understanding, you say if people are operating in the streams to divert or alter the streams, then yes, there is a permitting process that we would need to follow. Is that...was that your question? I'm so sorry.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Unless...unless, in this case, a disaster emergency, is there room to quickly go into the streams in case of an emergency, or do we need to go through that arduous process?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. The HRS 127A allows us to take immediate action to work within the streams for protective measures to protect and save lives.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. HRS 127. Thank you for that. And then, Chair, my last question was, you know, last week, Director Wade mentioned MEMA doesn't do too much of the long-term recovery. They're always having to, okay, get ready for the next...the next emergency, the next disaster. At what point do...does the department wash their hands of certain areas and then let...whether it be Office of Recovery or Public Works or other departments take over the long-term recovery?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Once again, that line isn't clear. It's overlap between short-term recovery and mid-term recovery. For this particular Kona 1 and Kona 2, we're still engaged in recovery. One of the critical actions that MEMA takes place, or participates, or leads is the damage assessment piece. And once the joint preliminary damage assessment is done with HIEMA and FEMA, that's a critical milestone within the recovery piece where it draws some kind of line when it starts to turn over more recovery. But like I said, it does overlap. And I think the more important thing is that MEMA and Office of Recovery . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . work together to find the best time to transition and not leave any gap in service to our community. So we...basically, MEMA, holds on until we get it stable and then a seamless transition into the Office of Recovery. And we meet on those things and discuss what that may be in points of time.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Vice-Chair Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Administrator, when do you guys anticipate moving into the new EOC?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That is a wonderful question.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So all of the equipment in the budget specifically for the new EOC, is that needed this fiscal year? There's quite a bit of it in there.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So...okay. So let me answer the first question. The first question is, we're supposed to move in June.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It was supposed to be in early April. There's some Spectrum cable piece that dictates final inspection, so we're waiting on that. As far as the furniture, the original furniture, we had to increase that because the original layout of the EOC was built for 12, and now we're attempting to move to 31, so a lot of our offices

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had a change order in furniture. All the furnitures in the...is in right now. I think there's some technology pieces that need to be finalized and some final finishing work that needs to happen with floors.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But you guys do anticipate needing all of the equipment for the EOC in this current fiscal year?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. And then regarding trainings, there's...I see \$92,000 for travel alone. I see \$30,000 for registration. I don't see like, anything else related to accommodations that you would need for these trips, but I'm having trouble getting a sense of how many trainings you're proposing, who's proposing to go, and, like, how much this is all adding up to.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Okay. So related to training, I can produce this document for you as well, of the minimal trainings. It's actually...it's in the training exercise plan I can share with all of you, but the idea is 31 persons being able to train at a minimum...a minimum training requirements, to just sit in the EOC. And then there are opportunities for lower-level positions to also TA, temporary assign up to section chief positions, and then there's that opportunity as well.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Would it be possible for us to get a breakdown of what you're proposing for your staff?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Sure. Sure.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. That's all I have, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's all? Okay, very good. So I just...one of the problems that we're having are electric batteries, or cars with electric batteries are not being towed. And I noticed that you have 70,000 EV battery response specialized consulting services to address incidents involving electric vehicle batteries, including fire suppression, support safety, protocols, and technical expertise. So I'm wondering if you are working with DEM to figure out how we can solve this electric battery concern.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Thank you for the answer...and the ques...the answer involves us working with DPW, DEM, Fire, DOH and MEMA, actively engage in any kind of electric vehicle battery response. We just had an incident the other day with ten electric vehicles' batteries left on the side of the road across Walgreens. And batteries just requires specifically trained persons to address them. And then there's the concern of transportation, there's a concern of storage, there's a concern of deconstruction, and then disposal. So currently, MEMA falls in as a second responder, meaning that the fire department responds, they call DOH, DOH calls MEMA, and Fire calls MEMA, and we take care of the transportation and storage until the battery can be deconstructed and disposed of.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So there were ten batteries left on the side of the road but none of the cars, right? It was just the batteries?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Loose batteries on the side of the road, all electric vehicle.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so, in that case, what is the solution for...or do we have a solution for electric vehicle batteries, that we can dispose of them?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So any kind of batteries, obviously not loose like that, they're considered DDR batteries, which means that they have the potential to cause harm to the public within thermal runaway or through fire-producing toxic gases. There is an end-of-life program that we are supporting, DEM and DPW, to develop and stand up. So there is an end-of-life program, there is a model, we did it in Ukumehame as a temporary facility, we deconstructed 30,000 pounds of electric vehicle batteries. They were deconstructed and approved for disposal, transportation and disposal. So there is a method and a process for . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .the county right now. We just got to establish a program, end-of-life program, with a facility or some private service that does it for us, and we're exploring both sides.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's great, end-of-life, so that means DEM is now hauling away electric vehicles and taking it to...for disposal. There is a solution. Well --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: There is a pathway.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we're working on it, though, right?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Still not done. Thank you very much for that EV battery response answer. Members, another round? Member Paltin, two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I did see the six expansion positions. I think two have eight months funding, three have 10 months and one has 12 months. And I think the answer said three of them require a reorganization. Given that DPS says it takes them, like, 97 days to onboard, I just was wondering if you're eight, ten and 12 months, what hire dates, what that was based on, and if, given your past experiences with DPS, that seems reasonable? Or were you planning to DM-89 somebody into the 12-month position right away? Because I have no problems giving the money, but if it's not going to be filled in eight, ten, or 12 months...or sorry, zero, four, or two months after July 1st, then it's excess money.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I think the 12-month position is already being funded by Maui United Way. And so, that position would likely go right into a county position that wouldn't need a reorg.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So that one has a warm body already?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yep, it does, yeah. Yeah. The reorganization would happen with the hazard mitigation positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know which positions are the ones that require a reorg?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: The hazard mitigation positions. The three hazard mitigation positions would require the reorg.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: With union consultation or no need union consultation?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I'm so sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, do the reorg positions require union consultation?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I would...I can double-check, but I would imagine so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So and then you think that could be done within four months? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I sure hope so because we need those guys as fast as possible. I mean, we're trying to expedite it, start those processes now and gives us the best chance for it, but we hope so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you fill a not-created position with a DM-89, or it has to be created before you can fill it with a DM-89?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: To my knowledge, we can't fill with a DM-89.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Even though you didn't formally create it with DPS?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Oh...I got to check up on that. I'm not sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Is it okay to send that in writing as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you got that? Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because they have money, and they can put somebody in there, even if DPS didn't create it yet, or what?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see Member Batangan has his hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sorry.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Administrator, can I ask about the adoption of...I think it's pronounced Genasys Project. Are there any estimates on the number of users Maui County has versus the number of mobile devices? Is penetration in the app, I don't know, like five, ten, 15, I don't know. What percentage of adoption?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So I would estimate, based on our MEMA alerts. So Genasys Protect doesn't have the...currently doesn't have the ability to tell me how many users, and we're working on getting that number. Based on the MEMA alerts, most recent number, which is somewhere close to 30,000 subscribers, which is still a low number, but we've made progress from when we started to what we have now. So I cannot tell you what the Genasys Protect number is, but I'm going to guess that it's similar to our MEMA alerts number.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions for...Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. So I read your outline of the challenges with DPS, and this seems to resonate throughout all the departments. I think, hopefully, your department is going to be one that can be, I don't want to say tip of the spear because I don't want to sound adversarial, but the wedge to basically...to get DPS to basically be enabling the departments to do hiring instead of being a dysfunctional filter to being able to hire. You outlined it really well as far as like the criteria for your department, a college education and, you know, administrative skills. There...the minimum requirements aren't applicable to it. And then to be able to...and the departments....I'm making a statement, I'm not asking you a question. The departments are the most experienced and appropriate to basically be saying this is the function we need this employee to do, to provide, perform. So anyway, keep it up. Hopefully all the...I'm supportive of DPS. I really want them to be successful. I want them to basically be able to not constantly be under stress because people are dissatisfied with not being able to get employees, but it really is a critical, pivotal part of every single department to be able to get the employees we need. So, thank you for what you're working on, I think is really the best example I've seen to date of really clarifying this is what we need, this is what's approved, okay? How are we going to fix it? Thank you for all your work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have round three questions? I don't see any. Okay. So we have some questions that we'll be sending the department. Anybody else, please send by...nine o'clock tomorrow morning is still good for you guys? Okay. And I guess I want to just add that we appreciate all the work that you're doing. I think you've been filtering in and helping with land management concerns. And in my community, that I've seen you help through disaster and even the talks that you've given to the Kula Community Association, appreciate that a lot of going kind of over and beyond. All right. So there's no other questions. I'm going to recess the meeting, take a break, and then come back to then talk about...talk with 'Oiwī Resources. So it's now 10:34. 10:45, we'll come back. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:35 a.m.
RECONVENE: 10:48 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. So today we've asked, because of conversations in the...from

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last week, and we're looking at the managed retreat fund and discussions regarding how the managed retreat fund impacted a...well, the department that was handling the managed retreat fund in this case would be 'Ōiwi Resources. So we asked them to come.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Um, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's in relationship...yes?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Department of Management handles the managed retreat fund. Are you talking about the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, Hawaiian Cultural Restoration, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Fund, sorry. All right. So therefore...so I have my summaries. Do you guys have the summaries? That sheet. So this impacts Bill 63, which is "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 3.38.010 AND 3.38.020, MAUI COUNTY CODE, ON RENAMING THE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL RESTORATION REVOLVING FUND AND USING THE FUNDS TO EXPAND THE ROYAL LAHAINA COMPLEX AREA." So it is relationship to this and the use of the funds. So I think, Member Paltin, you want to take over. In terms of the first question, we'll do three rounds...I mean, three minutes per round.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. The last time...the last two times we amended this fund, the first one was to include Pākalā, and then the other time was to have the administration of the fund to go from Parks and Recreation to Department of 'Ōiwi. And I think Department of...Parks and Recreation to Department of 'Ōiwi was done during Budget and adding Pākalā was in Committee. And so, this looks to be a department-proposed bill because I don't think one of us proposed it. And some of my questions were as, you know, I think Friends of Moku'ula originally created this fund and has the Lahaina community been outreached to about it? And I'm not clear on the overall direction of how it will go. I understand it's to include spending for all of the Lahaina Royal Complex area, but there's...the revenue generation of the fund is from the parking lot, and there's nobody managing or no revenue coming in from the parking lot at this time. And I had even heard from some folks that that parking lot is not really appropriate continuing forward. So I asked for clarification because I don't see the vision of how we're going. Like, is the idea that we're going to expend all the money of the fund and then just go to general fund, which I don't have a problem with. And I just want to know what direction, what the vision, how we're going to go forward. And I did see, also, in the expenditure of the fund, it said Hālau Hui O Wa'a Kaulua and canoes. And my understanding of how it is now; canoes wouldn't be appropriate because it's for Pākalāda Park (*phoenetic*), not for items, I guess. And so, is that one of the things that's going to be changed by this legislation as well?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo nui for the question. There's a series of questions within the question that you asked. And so, we're going to try and see if we can go through them

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systematically. Currently, the 500 Front Street parking lot is not...it's used as a parking facility for our community and not generating any funds. The current bill that is the Lahaina Royal Complex Revolving Fund, which used to be the Moku'ula Revolving Fund, was at one point designated just for Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, prior to Royal Complex coming on to even consideration. And so, now that the Royal Complex is in for consideration, in this particular conversation the monies would be dedicated for the entirety, which would include Moku'ula, Mokuhinia as well. And so, when we look at the landscape of where that is, it's from Hau'ula all the way up to Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, which includes Kamehameha Third Complex, Pākalā, Kamehameha Iki, Moku'ula, and Mokuhinia. And so, that is the current area that we're looking at utilizing that particular revolving fund for. In regards to the parking situation, we did have a conversation with Department of Transportation, which they were...they were very open to being able to help support the continuum of a revolving fund with their parking structures and facilities within the Royal Complex. And so, it's roughly about 120 parking stalls that are within the Royal Complex that will be then allowing for that monies to be circulated back into the revolving fund, which would then be able to help all of the programmatic needs that are necessary for the Lahaina Royal Complex. In terms of...I'm not exactly sure the verbiage for canoes. I'm not sure what that verbiage is about, but I'll take a look on that. But also agree that it should be taken care for the facility, of the parks and the lands that are part of the Lahaina Royal Complex.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then just the part about community outreach.

MR. MOLITAU: Yes. So we have our community 'Āina Advocate, Kaiea Medeiros, who's out there usually weekly, working with our community in terms of Nā 'Āikāne, in terms of . . . (timer sounds) . . . the group, the Nakupuna O Lahaina, also with our group, Hui O Wa'a Kaulua, as well as reaching out with Lahaina Restoration Foundation. And so, he's continuously in the loop with that community weekly, if not daily.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, Members, the Hawaiian Cultural, Hawaiian Cultural...let me get this closer. Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund, Chapter 3.38 Maui County Code, there's \$1.1 million in there, and it specifically says funds must be used for the implementation of the management, strategy, and restoration of Moku'ula and Mokuhina...Mokuhinia, through community input and participation. Number...that's one. Number two is a semi-annual report must be submitted to the council of the use of these funds, and up to \$200,000 for Hui O Wa'a Kaulua for restoration and maintenance of canoes and canoe sites. So that's what's in the bill now, which caused us to have this discussion, ask you to come forward, Director, thank you very much. So at this time, I'm going to ask Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then go to Cook, U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, Batangan, Lee, Johnson. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I don't have any further questions on the purpose, and I guess...okay, I lied. So...and it's not for the Department of 'O'iwi Resources because we spoke about this last Thursday, and we were trying to

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understand why this fund was created in 2011. So my question is regarding the purpose of creating this fund, if anyone was able to find more information. I looked for a little bit, and then I stopped.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So I guess the department doesn't have that information.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I said "not the department".

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So I will tell you that in the years that I've been in Council, and from listening to testimony from the community, this fund was actually created...but I want to say Mayor James Kimo Apana, the 120 parking stalls that was in vibrant Lahaina at that time, he wanted those funds to go towards the use that's in the ordinance. So that's why the public parking stalls, which gave money to this fund, was created and was used by...for the restoration.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. There are two funds. That's what Member Paltin...that was the discussion. There's that fund for the parking lot, and then there's a fund with the same name as our district funds. And so, we had a discussion about why that existed, and if it meant the same thing, and if the councilmembers created that in 2011 so that those funds would revolve, not the parking lot fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: From what I know is that there used to be an organization called Friends of Moku'ula that was led by the late Akoni Akana, and then...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right, and then Auntie Blossom.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And there was another leader before Auntie Blossom, and they would receive all the monies from the parking lot. And then I think it was Councilmember Guzman and Cochran brought into question, I guess, the activities and what was happening with the funds. And then Friends of Moku'ula dissolved, and the money kept going into the fund from the parking. I think there was a month-to-month lease with Diamond Parking. And every year, Parks and Rec tried to do, like, a study or something, and I don't think anything ever happened. But the two funds, one, Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund was always named that. The other fund, I think, is like called Economic Development Cultural (*inaudible*).

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So the fund I'm talking about is Chapter 3.81, Economic Development and Cultural Programs Revolving Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And that was the discussion that we had last week. So I'm super clear on the parking lot fund. . . .(*timer sounds*). . . I understand the purpose of that, and I hear the timer, but everyone took up my time. So if anyone has that information, that would be great. And if not, I can do my own research. But we

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had discussed that fund being zeroed out. And so, if it's zeroed out, we discussed, like, what's the purpose of it, should it continue, or should we just end it. But we didn't know the purpose of it, so we didn't want to do away with it when we don't know why it was created back in 2011. So that's the question about that, 3.81 in our Code. And if, again, does anyone have that information? If not, I can go and look for it myself and then figure out whether we should close it, since it's all zeros.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director, do you have any comments on it?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. No. I do not have any comments on that at that time. I know we discussed the other day. I'm happy to assist Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez in looking into that and determining if the purpose...well, I think, based on some of the purpose we've discussed, just obviously economic development and cultural programs still remain very important to the county. But we have a lot of other funding sources outside of that revolving fund now that fund those programs, so it may not be necessary to have a dedicated fund anymore. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Anybody else have questions for the...Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Okay. Director, so within this revolving fund, I see \$200,000 for Hui O Wa'a Kaulua. I also see a general fund grant to the same organization for \$180,000. Is this for a different purpose? There's no description for the general fund one, but I just want to make sure that the appropriation under the fund that you manage is not duplicative.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Councilmember, for the question. So the...now that we've taken a look at what the actual wordage is for that in the Lahaina Restoration...Royal Complex Revolving Fund, that \$200,000 that is in there is for the area of Pākalā. That's what's in that revolving fund. For the line-item area that you're talking about, that \$180,000, I believe that is for the work that is being done over at that particular complex. Also, in regards to some of the things that they have lost in regards to their wa'a vestments. So they lost the Mo'olele. They are taking a look at trying to figure out what that restoration would look like in recapturing that particular wa'a in the future. So I believe that some of the discussions that's been had with that particular organization.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. And did I understand correctly in your response, Member Paltin, you weren't clear on what the language in the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund was related to the canoes? Because it's for restoration and maintenance of canoes and canoe site. So you're clear on the canoe site, but you have to look into the canoe portion of itself to make sure it's not double-dipping with the general fund.

MR. MOLITAU: Yes. Yes, totally.

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COUNCILMEMBER BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or even allowed

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Or even allowed under the...yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Unless you separate the general fund for the canoes and the revolving fund for everything else.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Okay. So I guess can we just get written clarification that there's no double-dipping, and that everything that's being proposed to be funded from the respective funds is allowable?

MR. MOLITAU: Yes. You will get written confirmation for that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director.

MR. MOLITAU: Alright, mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Anybody else have questions? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Just a quick question for you guys that I've been asking some other departments. But basically, do you have the total monetary amount of grant requests? And what is the department able to actually fund? I'm really looking for the need of our people, if they're saying you have ten applicants for a small pot of money. That's my question. And I see you guys nodding your head, so maybe you can just...I'll leave it to you.

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. We do have it in writing on our 'Ōiwi-02 but let me give you that information. On our first year, which was fiscal '26...I'm sorry, excuse me, fiscal '25, we had 23 applicants. The amount was a little bit over a million dollars. Sorry. I'm flicking through this thing, trying to find the information specifically. It was a little bit over a million dollars in requests. We awarded 444,000 out of our \$500,000 county grant subsidy appropriation. In fiscal '26, we had 24 applicants. 80 percent of those applicants were new applicants. They weren't repeat applicants. We were able to...I think it was \$1.2 million of requests, and we were able to award, I think, \$450,000 from our, again, county grant subsidy appropriation. Yeah. So thank you for allowing for that. I think we asked for an increase of 200,000 this year, in this year's program, but.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So you asked for 200K more, and is there a reason you didn't go up to around one million because of capacity of staff, or is it just you felt that was...or what was the reason, is my question.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes. Mahalo for the question. Okay. You know, I think for the most part we're trying to also find grant funding that we can pass through to grant applicants. Those totals of 444,000 and 450,000 for the last two years came from the county grant

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subsidy. They didn't include what you folks provided via proviso, and it doesn't include grants that we found and that we are able to use to support natural cultural resource restoration and preservation in all of the departments' strategic goals. And so, we have asked for some additional grant writers to beef up our grant department so that we can continue to find funding to hopefully support these programs or pass through to our community. Why we didn't ask for \$1 million? I think...I mean, I think we could ask for...why you never ask for \$1 million? I don't know. I don't know. We're trying to be, you know, fiscally responsible is what my director says. And also, you know, we are getting a hold and a handle . . .(timer sounds). . . of how important all of the departments and all the different ways they serve the community. So we want to be fair and, you know, be a part of the team.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I understand that, you know, we're overseeing a billion six budget. So for me, if there's a need, I would support if the department thinks they can handle it, and if they have enough grantees applying. Sounds like you did, sounds like you need some more staff. I don't know, that's what you guys are telling me. So I'm willing to, you know, help you guys achieve your goals if you feel that you're ready to take it on. So I just wanted to bring that up and the members can hear all that. So, thank you for your time. Thank you, Chair, no further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right, So, any more regarding the revolving fund? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So I heard the 120 parking stall...parking lot could be replaced with 120 other spaces within the Royal Complex. I just wanted to clarify, because I think Lahaina Restoration Foundation also...are those parking separate from their parking? It's not like we're going to take their parking revenue away?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. MOLITAU: Hi. Mahalo for your question, Councilmember. Yeah, it's separate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: And so, the 120 stalls that we're talking about are within the Royal Complex. The current 500 parking lot does not have a 120 stalls.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it has 500?

MR. MOLITAU: No, no, that's the...that's the address, that 500 Front Street.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, oh. How much does it have?

MR. MOLITAU: I...I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like, about 50 or so?

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MR. MOLITAU: Yeah. About 30 or 35 stalls.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the semi-annual or annual reporting, are you not doing it because no money was spent and the report could be as simple as no money was spent?

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae...we apologize for miscalculating that report and not getting it in in a timely manner. But pololei, there is nothing to report because there is no money coming in and...at this moment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then just following up on Member Johnson. To me, Natural and Cultural Resources is really similar to Environmental Protection and Sustainability. Do you have any ideas about what if you took EP&S into you guys? Like, is that something you guys could oversee? Because, I mean, there's Wastewater and there's Solid Waste overseeing Environmental Protection and Sustainability, and you guys are overseeing Natural and Cultural Resources, which it seems to me a better fit, no?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I think we would need to look at the Charter. If I remember correctly, under DEM, it does say they have oversight of Environmental. I think if we want to have a discussion about maybe what the separation would be between Environmental and Natural and Cultural Resources, that's a conversation we can certainly have, but I wouldn't move it wholesale, I think.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Charter amendment. Okay, got it. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I have some non-revolving fund related questions. Am I able to ask them since we have the department before us, or is this something you're going to transmit in writing for Sunshine Law purposes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we have to, for Sunshine purposes, submit it in writing.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because this is a recess meeting, and we said we're going to do this. So I don't want to deviate from this, which we're doing.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Understood. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Can we get one of our attorneys to weigh in on that? Because I don't agree with that position. We have the entire budget on the agenda. That's Sunshine Law. I know what we said we were going to do. I mean, I was only going to ask Revolving Fund questions because that's what we asked the department to prepare for. But as far as your position on it being a violation of Sunshine Law, I don't agree with.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So if we could have an attorney weigh in on this, please? Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll ask...yes. Mr. Hanano.

MR. HANANO: I'm sorry, what was the...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So the question is whether or not I'm unable to ask questions about the department outside of the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund. Would it be a violation of Sunshine Law, given the way that we agendized the meeting?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. You slipped one in there. Mr. Hanano.

MR. HANANO: Well, I mean, the BFED-1 has, like, all the entire budget, which includes all the departments. I know we're trying to stick to a schedule as far as what departments come on what days, but in general, I think, you know, because BFED-1 covers everything, I think we're, we're...we should be okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Hanano, for weighing in on that question. And so, for Sunshine Law purposes, you could ask that question, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: You could. But you did note that we didn't ask them to prepare for it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Out of consideration for the department, we didn't ask them to be prepared for that. We only asked them for that specific thing. So out of consideration, I would not want to ask those questions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I will transmit my questions in writing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Anybody else has any discussion on this? So we will take up Bill 63 when we do all the bills and go through it in that way. Anybody else have any more questions for the department, on the revolving fund, and 63, and keeping in compliance?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just have one more question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Alright.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did ask if there was outreach, and you did say that 'Āina Advocate, Kaiea Medeiros...what is the feedback? Like, are we, like, yes, let's do it. Let's use this fund for all the whole Royal Complex and switch the parking? Or was it like, no, don't do that, or?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo nui for the question, Councilmember. I don't believe there was, like, really big feedback that we've gotten so far. Or I know that there's been discussion about what the revolving fund should be used for and who it should go for, but I will say this, as a director to oversee the entirety of the Royal Complex, I'm not thinking about one specific space. I'm thinking about the entirety of the complex. And so, if we can utilize the revolving fund to be able to access or to use it for all of the areas that are in need, then we're going to look at how we can kākou and help support that all the way through.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I've heard from some of the folks your vision for the Royal Complex. Would the fund always be limited to just parking revenue, or, like, you know, I had heard there may be, like, vendors, authentic and what not. Would...if they were to pay, like, rent or something, could that go into the fund as well. Or could there be other revenue sources to continue, I guess --

MR. MOLITAU: Generating.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Generating so that we could continue to lift it up, the Royal Complex.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah. Mahalo nui for that question, as well as statement. I think it's really important that when we look at the revolving, Lahaina Restoration Revolving...oh, sorry. Trying to get the wording correctly all the time. Lahaina Royal Complex Revolving Fund. There are those aspects of things that go in my head about when the Royal Complex is mākoko, what are other avenues of generating resources for the continuing care of the space. And one is definitely parking, but I do believe that there are avenues for conversation. Rentable spaces is...you know, amazing. To be able to think of culturally appropriate designation of businesses that we look at for...for that space is also something very in high consideration right now as we are looking at just small planning steps forward.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the fund. In terms of, I...this is a little gray area, I guess, but the proposed security and what not, would come out of the fund because their, kuleana would be the entirety of the Royal Complex area.

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo, Councilwoman. Yes, that's correct. That the positions that we are asking for EP in that area, if we were to fund them through this fund, they would be

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responsible for the entirety of the Lahaina Royal Complex and not just Moku'ula, Loko, Mokuhinia, and Pākalā. So we were hoping that the fund would match the work that's happening in that area. And I think, also, there would be opportunity at a later time. Our master planning process is slated to be completed next summer, 2027. And if Council is open to it, maybe through committee, perhaps with Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, we could give an update on the master planning. But we realized that we needed to focus as a county on getting people home first, and we wanted this cultural restoration plan for the Lahaina Royal Complex to be able to be ready for them when they were ready, when the community is ready. And so, there's a lot of considerations, but we are looking at how we can bring in revenue to continue the revolving fund. And then one last answer. Each time we've designated with you folks and the community uses of the revolving fund, the Office of Recovery has come in, and they've swooped in and provided funding. So master planning funding, we pivoted to allow for another amendment so they can help us with artistic renditions as we complete the engagement process.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, the Story Board from..(*inaudible*)...

MS. ROBINSON: Yes, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You didn't have to pull from the fund.

MS. ROBINSON: So we didn't have to use from the fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I then you got two million two grant from National Historic.

MS. ROBINSON: That's correct. And then we have also obtained a grant from the National Park Service to apply to the restoration of Moku'ula. So we're excited to implement that. . . (*timer sounds*). . . It's three years, and sorry to take up your time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just one last...so I think when it was Diamond Parking, the expense for doing the parking came out and the profit went in. Is that the 120 other stalls, is there going to be a contract with Department of Transportation, and would the operating expense come out of the fund, and then the profit go in?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo for the question. I believe the Department of Transportation uses Park Maui as a particular vendor. And so, when that discussion actually happens and that agreement happens, then I think all of that, details will be...will fleshed out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you have no intentions, at this time, of how the vending would be paid for?

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah. Just let us know, keep us updated.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah. Mahalo.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Do you want to go over Bill 63, which was also why...I don't know if it's Budget Director or...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. I will point out I did receive a note from Corporation Council. We do need a slight amendment to the title. We inadvertently put Royal before Lahaina instead of after Lahaina. So if we can just add that to the committee's radar, it would be appreciated. The purpose of this ordinance is to update the name of the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund to the Lahaina Royal Complex Restoration Revolving Fund and also to expand the area that these funds can be used in to encompass the entirety of the Royal Complex area. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can she repeat which is the correct one, Royal first or Lahaina first?

MS. MILNER: Lahaina first, in the title.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I have a question, Director. The purpose, then, also includes Kamehameha III School and library area makai of Front Street at Lahaina Maui, Hawai'i, including maintenance of the site, which is in 3.38.030 for the...oh, 020 for the purpose. Can you speak about that, Kamehameha, and the Kamehameha, that's the old area, right? The old area where Kamehameha School was by the harbor. I mean...

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo nui for the question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

MR. MOLITAU: So let me see if I got this correct. It's in regards to those properties which include makai of Front Street, which is the old library area, which also includes Kamehameha III, Kauikeaouli Royal Complex or Kamehameha III School, Pākalā, Kamehameha Iki Park, Moku'ula and Mokuhinia area. Is that...is that what I'm...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It does say...okay. It does say and Pākalā, but it also includes the...it's adding, right, Kam III School and library area makai...library areas, makai of Front Street, which is all encompassed of the Lahaina Royal Complex site.

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae, pololei. Yes, correct. It is in addition with Kamehameha III School, the old library facility site, as well as Pākalā. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else have questions regarding Bill 63? And we will vote on it when we vote on all the bills, so anybody else? If not, we can...all right.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, they're transmitting in writing the question about if canoes can be funded through the fund, or if it needs to be solely on the general fund side, right, that's already --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. We got that, right? Yeah. They're nodding, yes. Anybody else have questions? Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Okay. So the conversation that Director and Member Paltin had went kind of quickly. So can I just confirm, there are EPs that you're proposing to fund through this revolving fund, and those are the ones for maintenance of the Royal Complex; is that correct?

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you for that question. We are asking for EPs. You will see it on our budget as security officer, as supervisor, and park caretakers. We are calling them Aloha 'Āina Ambassadors, and we are not asking for funding at this time. We work in partnership with the Department of Management and the Department of Parks and Recreation, and we're trying to be prepared in case that kuleana gets...is offered to the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. And then, yes, we would want those positions to serve when the time is appropriate because right now, after the wildfires, none of the parking spaces are being maintained or anything like that. And it's been kind of a soft opening in that area. Everybody's trying to be very sensitive. But I do understand that folks are accessing the area and parking kind of all over the place. Um...yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So I guess I understood the requests in the budget. One of the questions I hadn't asked previously was the coordination between you and Parks, since it sounds like park caretaker in the job description kind of falls under their kuleana. But if you guys are having those conversations, great. But I guess I'm trying to understand the funding for them. So you're not asking for general funds to support these EPs. You guys would be looking for this revolving fund to be the fiscal source.

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Councilmember. We are not asking for funds to fund these jobs at this time, and we are opening...we are open to considering using the revolving fund to pay for these positions in the future.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess part of my thinking, though, is if it is funded through a revolving fund that you oversee, then it makes sense for the positions to be in your department. If it's not, I can see the argument for funding it under Parks. And that's why I'd like to know upfront whether or not your intent is to ask for the revolving fund to be the...to be the fiscal source.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that Budget Director?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo for the question. I will say this in a couple of different ways that I'm hearing your question. When we're looking for those EP positions within the Lahaina Royal Complex, it may not fall under the designation of what you would consider Parks and Rec. It would fall under the designation of 'Āina Advocates that mālama 'āina. And

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so, that particular funding that we would request would probably come within the revolving fund to be able to continue that particular work.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And management and the unions are on board with this plan?

MR. MOLITAU: I think I would have to go ahead and ask Budget Director to weigh in on that.

MS. MILNER: That would be part of the process of creating the currently unfunded positions and another reason they're created unfunded because that won't be a short process. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Director, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just to speak to Member Batangan's point. Pre-fire, that area was managed by Parks, you know, the tennis courts, Shigesh Wakida, the tennis courts and what not. And there were...and nothing against Parks, but there was sentiment that it wasn't managed in a way that was respectful to our former Royal Complex area. So for me, I would be supportive of the revolving fund because it's not just any park lands and it shouldn't be caretaken in the same manner as any park lands. And we already saw what that looked like pre-fire, and it wasn't up to Royal Complex standards. It wasn't even up to veteran cemetery standards, which I don't know how you rank things, but I would say it's different. It's not... it's not Parks and Recreation, it's historical, cultural resources more so.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Councilmember. I would have to say and agree with you 100 percent that these lands are of historical, monumental significance. The way that these lands are looked at from the perspective of...currently, we have an opportunity to basically go to phase zero of removing and taking a really good kilo or taking a really good moment to observe the land and have it be the ones to help guide us to what this monumental space could look like for generations to come. I will agree that if we take the Western construct of what monument and historical spaces look like, and, you know...going to places, like across the continent to D.C., and what they consider monumental spaces and historic value, then places like Moku'ula, Mokuhinia should have that highest of respect and highest of value and dedication to...to not only land conservation, but to the respect of our historical and cultural perspective of that space moving forward. And that's really one of the mole...or one of the kumuhana. The main reasons why we are looking at this Lahaina Royal Complex is to be able to enhance that particular story . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that allows for the elevation of our cultural excellence, our cultural heritage, and our history of our people.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Very good. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I just want to say I also support putting the

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ambassadors in your department. I understand the gravity; I understand the significance. I keep saying my family's traditionally from Lahaina. We have ancestors in Waiane'e, so part of our, you know, reunions often involve going to clean grave over there. And I want the site to be taken care of to its...you know, the level of reverence that it deserves. I just want to make sure that, through my questioning, I'm conveying that we're doing everything correctly on the back end as well. I don't want it to come across as if I'm opposed to you taking on this kuleana because I do think that it would lead to the most appropriate care for this sacred site. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wonderful. Okay, anybody else? Okay. No. Seeing none. All right. Members, so, thank you very much, department, for coming in to talk to us on this particular items. And we look forward to the amendment to the bill. Are you sending that amendment, Budget Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. I'm putting together a list of requested amendments, that I'll discuss with you and the BFED staff the appropriate way to transmit that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. All right. Very good. Thank you very much, everybody. So we are...we will be in Moloka'i for the six o'clock Residency Area meetings. Members, I'm being asked to remind you to check on your flights with Mokulele because we're seeing some delays, according to staff. So we want to make sure that, you know, you're there, and we all go appropriately at what time. I um...Is there anything else we need to talk about for that? No. That's it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Related to flights to Moloka'i, make sure you take snacks with you in case you are delayed, which Chair Sugimura already said that staff checked on. Make sure you have drinks. You can take it on the plane. There's no TSA. But, you know, we want...there isn't anywhere to get food. So just make sure you have sustenance. And I look forward to greeting everyone when you arrive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. I hope your shop at the Kaunakakai Airport is open. I love to shop in that little shop in the corner across the check-in areas, is my preference. Members, so see you all in Kaunakakai or Mitchell Pau'ole Community Center for the six o'clock meeting. And pray that weather stays sunny as the clouds have been lifted. All right. So this item is now deferred.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Real quick. I mean, when you're at the Maui Airport waiting to fly to Moloka'i. And I'm happy for you when you're at the Moloka'i Airport to support our shop there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. To go shopping. Yes, I love that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But on Maui, there is no shop, so at the commuter airport terminal at Maui, to have snacks. Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll be ready. All right. Members, thank you very much. Department, thank you very much for...Budget Director for being with us. Appreciate you adjusting your schedules. So this meeting is now adjourned, and this item is now deferred. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ACTION: DEFER.

ADJOURN: 11:33 a.m.

bfed:min:260413r:

Transcribed by: Terianne L. Arreola

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CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne L. Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 37 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 8th day of May 2026, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



Terianne L. Arreola