

# **BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**February 27, 2024**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE:** 11:05 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (out 12:28 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member (in 12:17 p.m.)  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member (in 12:27 p.m.)  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (in 11:06 a.m.)

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

### **Additional staff**

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tom Cook:  
Jared Agtunong

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:  
Kate Griffiths  
Axel Beers

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tasha Kama:  
Evan Dust

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:  
Angela Lucero

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:  
Sarah Sexton  
Haunani Madela

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Executive Assistant for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:  
Gina Young

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:  
Jordan Helle

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins:  
Laura McDowell

Residency Area Office (RAO):  
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office  
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lanai Residency Area Office  
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haiku-Paia Residency Area Office

**ADMIN.:** Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management and Office of Recovery  
Keanu Lau Hee, Deputy Managing Director, Department of Management  
Wendy Taomoto, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works  
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Jasee Law  
Others (10)

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay. Welcome, everybody back to the second BFED meeting for today. It is now 11:05 a.m. Thank you, all of you who have waited for us to get here. And as you know, this meeting is--do I have to go through the whole thing?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, you can go through...abbreviate it if you want, but we still should probably do roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll do roll call. So, as you know, we are conducting this with Sunshine, and all of you have this memorized. If you are not here, please identify who is with you, and minors do need to be identified. So, good morning, Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and halo olaketa.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Halo olaketa. Good morning, Chair Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is this on? Okay. Halo olaketa.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Halo olaketa. Good morning. Member Paltin is still listening in to the meeting and not with us in person. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Halo olaketa, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There is no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office, and I'm here and ready to work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. And halo olaketa, Member Rawlins-Fernandez...I'm sorry, Rawlins-Fernandez, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Mai Molokaʻi Nui A Hina. I'm at the Molokaʻi District Office, alone on my side of the office, and we currently have no testifiers here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next we have halo olaketa, Tom Cook, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Halo olaketa, Chair, and I'm looking forward to this afternoon meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Halo olaketa, Member Uʻu-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU HODGINS: Good morning, everyone. I'm not gonna attempt to butcher that one, so I'll just stick with good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Halo olaketa, Member Sinenci. Is he here? I don't see him on.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we haven't seen Councilmember Sinenci return.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, he's still in his meeting. So, Members, thank you very much for this meeting, and who is joining us today to take up this item, we have before us our Managing Directory...Director and our Recovery Office Director, which is Josiah Nishita, and his Deputy, which is Keanu Lau Hee. Are we having...we don't have budget with us also? Did you bring anybody with--maybe you can introduce who you brought with you to present. We have Kristina Toshikiyo from Corp. Counsel; Committee Staff is Yvette Bouthillier; James Krueger; and Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst; Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney; Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk, and thank you, Members. As you know, we have one item on this agenda, which is BFED-21(19), County Wildfire Recovery and Financial Plan, but I understand it's not a financial plan, and if anybody can look on the last page of the agenda for any more information. So, at this time, I'd like to introduce Josiah Nishita and Keanu Lau Hee. And I will tell you that last week Tuesday, myself and Tamara

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Paltin, we were at the WAM Committee informational briefing, which was on the wildfire...2023 wildfires. And from there, the presentation that the Administration gave, I did let Senator Dela Cruz know that I am going to schedule it and that he was also going to schedule another meeting after the Administration's presentation. But he said he would wait until we did this and then next...this coming Thursday, I think at 9:30--I saw his posting of his agenda--Senator Dela Cruz is also scheduling again the wildfire recovery and has invited the Administration. And anyway, so he's listening in. He said he would. So, Senator Nishita...Josiah Nishita, you are up. I don't know who else you brought with you, so could you please introduce?

**ITEM 21(19): COUNTY WILDFIRE RECOVERY AND FINANCIAL PLAN**  
(Rule 7(B))

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to be here with you today. The only other individual that you didn't mention I guess in your open comments is we have Deputy Director of Public Works Wendy Taomoto here in case there are any specific questions related to interim housing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. You want to come and join us? Thank you. This is in Granicus, right? This is the same presentation that you presented at WAM?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. We did provide the file to Staff, so I'm not sure if it has been uploaded yet to Granicus --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- but I'm sure it can be shortly if it hasn't already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. I think we're getting a thumbs up it has been, so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. Please proceed.

MR. NISHITA: Well, thank you very much for allowing us to be here today. We'll go through the slides, you know, rather quickly for you folks, and then I'll be happy to address any questions that you may have. Just at the opening outset, I just want to identify kind of the road to recovery that we're on. So, the Council has received a presentation already on our recovery framework, and all of this documentation is available on [mauirecovers.org](http://mauirecovers.org). We went through the initial recovery needs assessment with a bunch of community partners, different plans that have already been developed by the community, as well as our State and Federal counterparts, to really give a working document for the community to be

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able to digest and work from as we identify projects that are needed in the Lāhainā town area both for recovery and resiliency efforts. That recovery needs...initial recovery needs assessment is posted on [mauirecovers.org](http://mauirecovers.org) as well, so individuals can go on there and access the site. From there, we'll be identifying and developing projects based on the recovery needs assessment. And it would just note for community members as well as the Council, we did indicate this in our initial presentations, but this whole process is cyclical and iterative. So, we'll constantly be reevaluating based on community engagement and that...outreach that's occurring, how the community is feeling about different projects, the different prioritization of those projects, and where the County is headed. Once those projects are identified and developed, which our recovery support function teams are working through the process now, we'll be able to work with the community on prioritizing and adopting those projects. And then of course, following that would be initial implementation. Just for your folks' awareness, and this was specifically set up for the Senate Ways and Means Committee hearing just for our Senators to have easy access to a lot of the updates that are available. We obviously encourage everyone to sign up to receive updates online, and they can get push notifications. You can go to [mauirecovers.org](http://mauirecovers.org) for that. A lot of frequently asked questions are posted there, other resources. It's constantly being updated, and more information is being pushed to the site. There is an event page that is available for community members, and we are in the process of publishing a schedule for, like, community touch points along the way, and then that will assist people in identifying which, you know, meetings or sessions to attend, as well as areas of high importance or significance along the way as we address recovery efforts. I did highlight the different...a variety of different documentation that has been posted. The recovery needs assessment, the framework itself, as well as the presentation are all available on [mauirecovers.org](http://mauirecovers.org). And as well as the Council has already received the synthesis of public testimony that we've done, and there's many more other resources and documentation available on there for community members, as well as yourselves. So, just highlighting some of the County's response and recovery efforts, it includes emergency response and life-saving measures, family unification efforts in the early going as evacuations were occurring and people were being moved out of Lāhainā into congregate settings. Reestablishment of communications and vital utilities, such as water, sewer, and fuel to residents, as well as commercial complexes to provide life-saving and critical support services for residents to be able to continue to live and thrive out there. Reentry efforts, structural assessments, obviously the Council was involved in the tax waivers. Supporting our Federal and State counterparts in a variety of the programs and assistance being provided to them. Range of community meetings and outreach and engagement that has occurred, including most recently on the permanent disposition site, the survey results that was obtained from the community in that effort in helping to guide the final selection of the permanent disposal site. Those are just a few of the means and projects or partnerships that were undertaken during some of the initial response and recovery efforts. For our Federal partnership, obviously our Federal counterparts

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have been critically important to us, as we've responded to this emergency and as we head towards long-term recovery. We're just highlighting here a variety of atypical direct Federal assistance that has been provided, primarily because of the County's close coordination with our Federal counterparts and working with them in terms of developing these different projects and areas of recovery that are needed. Some of the areas in which they've provided long term recovery technical assistance has been in the Wahikuli area with cesspool issues that they face out there in terms of planning and development efforts. Evacuation route planning through US Army Corp the...FEMA has agreed to fund our long-term recovery plan and project and program development to the tune of about \$3.8 million. In addition, there has been other disaster assistance provided by HUD and USDA, as well as direct Federal assistance for private property debris removal to the tune of an estimated \$810 million, which is fairly atypical. In disaster responses there are typically cost share components involved. The Federal supplemental funding that typically is provided in post-disaster assistance has really been able to be leveraged significantly by our...by the County and by our recovery efforts, because of the close coordination and collaboration, not only on the recovery needs assessment and on the initial project identification, but also just in the utilizing the national disaster recovery framework for the coordination of our recovery support functions and our recovery activities, allows us to tap into significant amount of resources that may be atypically available. This is just a snapshot of what is estimated to be the public assistance timeline. So, public assistance is Federal funding that can be reimbursed essentially. I am kind of summarizing this really down to its base level, but a local jurisdiction would do a lot of, you know, repairs to existing infrastructure or facilities that may be publicly owned and/or operated. And the local jurisdiction would upfront those costs for those repairs and submit for Federal reimbursement later. Many of you have been involved in other maybe smaller scale disasters that have occurred in the past and needing to upfront those funding efforts in order to get the projects going, and then to seek FEMA reimbursement following. So, we are kind of at about the six-month mark here right now, so if you look at this timeline, we are still undergoing some damage assessments in various areas. And we are in the process of project formulation for a lot of these areas for the repairs to occur to get the infrastructure and utilities back online. I think the key thing to take away from this is that public assistance money probably is not going to be available for...at least significant amounts not available for about three to five years following the disaster, and especially following expenditures of funds. You know, there's a lot of time taken in the reimbursement process and documentation and whatnot. And so, there is a period of having to hold over these expenses before Federal reimbursements can occur. And of course, close out of this for when final reimbursements may occur and/or documentation is all settled could be many, many years out into the future. We do still have disasters from ten plus years ago that we're still working through for reimbursement. So, there is an outlay of expenditures that are needed upfront before reimbursements can occur. For...the County funding request that was provided to the State was \$401.75 million. It's

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broken out over three fiscal years based on the outlay of expenditures that is anticipated to be needed. It does include a share component with the County in addition to what the State is providing. And it includes both infrastructure, housing, and emergency response efforts. On the housing piece, we'll get into that in a little bit, but I would just note that, that housing number is not a like direct grant or whatnot to the County of Maui. It would be on recommendations of the interim housing plan that could be provided to external partners like CNHA or others who are running rental assistance, ADU programs, and the like for expansion of those efforts and to decrease the State's obligation in non-congregate shelter setting and the expenses that they occur through that program. The County objectives, so I'll say the top priority in terms of the County getting people back into homes is really on a repopulation effort. So, obviously many of you probably understand the intricacies and challenges with trying to develop brand new projects on raw, undeveloped agricultural land, not only through just the entitlement process, but also, you know, community feedback, community concerns, getting utilities to the property, as well as whether, you know, there's even sewer and/or water capacity, or electrical capacity on the grid to service these new projects that weren't previously planned or identified for development. So, a major focus of our housing efforts have been on the repopulation efforts, which a primary focus of that includes infrastructure restoration to properties so that people can return back to their properties as quickly as possible. Of course, in addition to that, we want to make sure that we're maximizing the FEMA reimbursements and other Federal and/or State funding sources to accomplish these efforts. And you know, on top of everything we want to make sure that we have safe and resilient communities. There are challenges on the Federal funding side that as we deal with this since they generally do a like-for-like kind of replacement. So, a typical funding from the...on the Federal side, at least through the public assistance portion and some other sources is not for on like significant upgrades or resiliency efforts, but there are other funding streams that the County will be applying for, which includes like the hazardous mitigation grant program and other sources, where resiliency efforts or some of those upgrades could be undertaken with other sources of funding other than County dollars. So, the three year kind of funding request that was identified earlier, as well as what we're talking about in this kind of three fiscal year cycle, is really to get us to the point of public assistance starting to roll in where that cash flow, you know, is beginning to kind of reimburse itself. So, the significant outlay of funds would happen more so in the first three years, and then as money is being reimbursed and replenished, then could be reinvested back into new infrastructure projects that would have to be undertaken. This is going to be really hard for you to see probably on the screen. It's just to demonstrate that we do have an infrastructure roadmap that is constantly being developed to identify the different cycles of improvements that need to be made, as well as kind of the timelines involved as it relates to infrastructure restoration and repopulation efforts. So, for Department of Environmental Management, it's just...this slide is just kind of highlighting some of the wastewater and solid waste damages. A significant portion of the collection

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systems or the wastewater sewer lines have sustained some type of damage. The lines are still being assessed, and so there's CCTV cameras being deployed in different areas to determine the fullest extent of the damage. And I believe you folks have been briefed on some of the, like, salt water intrusion and other things that have occurred in the system and the challenges that that faces for the wastewater treatment plant as we look to bring back homes and infrastructure in the area. Four pump stations were damaged. Two of them would need to be completely replaced. And we did bring forward previously a proposal to Council regarding some of that infrastructure regarding the use of GE funds. And then in addition for Department of Environmental Management, of course you folks are well aware of the need to establish and build a permanent disposal site for the debris in Lāhainā. Here's just kind of a very high level breakdown. I won't go into all the different areas since I covered some of them already. But it's just kind of identifying for you the breakout by fiscal year for this Department and some of the areas and the critical importance of it as it relates to restoration and repopulation efforts and the impact of it for funding being unavailable for this. For the Department of Water Supply, this is just kind of indicating where anticipated damages may be in our potable water network system. There's also a large number of service laterals that were damaged and will need to be repaired and replaced. And upgrades to the water system for fire flow requirements are needed to bring the system up to current standards and in certain areas. And as you folks were discussing the merits of, like, the expedited permitting program and some of the other programs coming underway, as well as ordinance changes that may be needed, it was highlighted about certain areas that will need like a standpipe upgraded to a hydrant, some lines being extended to provide adequate fire flow to certain neighborhoods, and things of the like. But that would be part of the damages or even resiliency efforts in some...in some instances that would be needed. This again is just highlighting some of the areas that we discussed and the critical importance for it and impact for funding being unavailable. For the Department of Public Works, a significant portion of the roads and infrastructure were damaged, which have required temporary repairs and will continue to require some temporary repairs to provide for repopulation efforts. You know, this is going to be a very long-term repair and replacement schedule for Public Works. As you can imagine, as a lot of heavy machinery is coming in for debris removal, will be coming in for rebuilding activities and reconstruction efforts and things like that. The actual physical, like, reconstruction of roadways to kind of what is a more typical County standard, probably won't occur for some years just as we let that kind of wear and tear and damage occur to them, instead of reconstructing, having all this occur and damage occurring, and then having to reconstruct again. So, this will be a multi-year effort, but they will be working to get infrastructure under their purview into workable condition during that timeframe to make sure that roads are safe and passable and things to that nature. This is just...this slide is just kind of the same thing, highlighting some of those things we talked about and the critical importance and the impact of lack of funding for the fiscal year. And then our Maui Emergency Management Agency,



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I think you guys took up recently some of the need for funding this current fiscal year, and access control would be needed to a...for these properties as debris removal continues to occur into FY-'25, as well as reconstruction efforts and utility restorations in certain areas. So, because these stations are no longer manned by National Guard, it would need to continue to be supported through private efforts that would be funded. This slide, just same thing, highlights some of the benefits to it and critical importance and then of course impacts for not funding in a fiscal year. We don't anticipate the access points needed beyond FY25, since debris removal activities will have concluded...well, anticipated to be concluded by then. And just as the debris removal updates, so I mean this material is a little old now since this is what was presented to Ways and Means. So, I don't have the most updated number for you, but I would anticipate there's more than 120 residential properties cleared already, and the permanent disposal site survey was completed and presented to the community the other week. And I believe we're still on target for having to have to make a final selection by March 1st in order to meet all the funding timelines and regulatory approvals and whatnot. Okay. For the objectives regarding housing, so we talked about restoration of critical infrastructure to help guide and restore repopulation efforts. I would just note up front that we did prepare this in initial talks we had for a while with some of our counterparts at the State. Because obviously the State is experiencing a pretty big or potentially big NCS liability through the sheltering program and concerns over whether there could be a so-called cliff where FEMA assistance may end if not expended, and where assistance would need to be provided to residents who were displaced in order to not drop any services or put people out without options being available. So, this is a proposed plan that was put together with kind of some of those underlying factors in place with the understanding that non-congregate sheltering is very expensive and more permanent and suitable kind of living arrangements are needed for individuals. And at least from the County's perspective, repopulation efforts are really the cheapest and quickest method in order to get people kind of rehoused from the disaster. So, this is just a broad snapshot for you folks. The...I think the data that we've seen from CNHA...of course data is always changing because people are coming and going, people are becoming ineligible or becoming eligible for assistance, so I would just, you know, caution that upfront that the data is always migrating and moving as we speak. However, working with CNHA and a variety of data sources that we're able to access, we've identified that there's probably...in order to accommodate everyone that is still remaining on the island of Maui, so this isn't taking into account like people, you know, have some of their own methods or means that they would prefer, or that they've already been accommodated with, but that about 4,000 housing units would be needed, and I would just note that a lot of these households, we don't have a clear indication about how many as of yet, but the way that FEMA I think breaks it out is you could have multi-generational households all living together, and in fact, I think some residents have told us that that's what they prefer, but in order to get into the NCS program, they were broken out into individual housing units. And so, this number is kind of a total, not

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necessarily reflective of families that may want to live together or continue to stay together in one household. So, it's essentially broken out by FEMA assistance, State assistance, and then County and/or private and other assistance. Our County and State executives, as well as our congressional delegation has made a request to FEMA to construct a thousand group housing sites. The commitment so far FEMA has made is to only one group housing site, and they're still working through the process on that on the exact location and the timelines for that. We do anticipate that FEMA will continue its direct lease program beyond February 2025, until those in the program have found stable and secure housing. That is fairly indicative of what other communities have experienced throughout the nation who have qualified and are able to remain and justify involvement in the direct lease program. And rental assistance continues to be available through FEMA provided through February 2025, and a request for extension can't go in until...as we get closer to the program, and justification would have to be provided. But our expectation would be that it will be extended for eligible households. You can go to the next slide. So, the FEMA direct lease program, this is just kind of a snapshot of it. So, all these corresponding slides as we go through, and I won't spend too much time on each one, but this is coming to the makeup of 4,000 units. So, this is assuming worst case scenario that all 4,000 households as they've been defined don't have housing and need a housing unit by February 2025, when the initial FEMA rental assistance deadline is. So, I think initially the direct lease program struggled a little bit to acquire units into the program. The Council is gracious enough to assist us in extending the tax incentives to these properties, and since then they have had been able to sign up an influx of properties into this program, primarily short-term rental properties. And the last I heard there were about 1,500 units to probably over more now, and I know that...I believe Governor either today or soon was making a case for additional units into the State's rental assistance program as well. The...yeah, so it's...I think the makeup of these is...of properties that have signed up into the program has primarily been short-term rentals. And I apologize, I don't have the document in front of me, but I believe there's about 800 or so maybe to a thousand units in West Maui, but I may be wrong on that. I've got to go pull the documentation on that. For FEMA group housing, they have been asked for a thousand units. Kā'anapali 2020 was identified by them as the top choice. I believe that they may be reevaluating that or looking at other options at this point. But that project would have been for 213 units. The second site that they had identified potentially was a parcel adjacent to Leiali'i for 130 units, and they were working on the design of that project. They have yet to commit to the full thousand units that the County and State have asked for...and as well as our Federal delegation. The State of Hawai'i is moving forward on a project. They were previously looking at the Launiupoko area and have since moved it to property near the Leiali'i project. They are looking at about 500 units there, and they're working through the process right now on design completion, permitting, and then of course construction efforts. I believe they have ordered the units already and they're on their way here, at least phase one of them, and so we're assisting them in that

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effort to get that project up and going. There are a variety of private projects. TY Management, there was just a groundbreaking recently for this, and they're looking at about 50 units up in their area, and they have been working us...with us closely on permitting and some other challenges. 'Ohana Hope Village is looking to do 88 units. They have completed design. Their permitting is in progress. They have already started constructing units, and this project is still working through some of the utility challenges to the property. And I'm sorry, I should have noted down below at the bottom of each slide is a State and Federal allocation share. So, some of the private projects are being funded through philanthropy, or private fundraising, or by the private entity themselves, and then some of the other projects through the Fed, State and/or County; there may be cost share components involved. The Holomua Nāpili housing...so, this is in preliminary design stage, and they are working through the process right now to get online about 77 units for temporary housing. There's a couple of...in the next two slides, a couple of permanent projects. One, Kūkui'a that was already in development prior to. Estimated completion date for this is the end of this year, and it would bring 200 units online, and this would be a part of the rehousing efforts too for our displaced survivors. And then the second one, Kupuohi, we are working through a variety of challenges right now. Their estimated completion date is December 2025, but they've already begun debris clearance and other activities occurring on the property. For County of Maui housing programs, we intend to work with CNHA's Kāko'o housing programs to provide flexible housing solutions to continue to meet future needs. The eight million of this request has already come before you folks, and I think that passed on first reading recently, so you folks will hear that again, and then the remaining 75 million, we are anticipated to propose that in the FY25 budget. We are working right now with our partners at Hawai'i Community Foundation and CNHA to scope out the program itself, as well as funding for the program. CNHA's Kāko'o Maui Program has a variety of programs, and as we know each of our families have very different needs, preferences, desires, things of that nature. And so, a variety of the programs that they offer can meet different needs such as the host family program, the ADU loan forgiveness program. They also provide gap financing with rental assistance and other endeavors to provide assistance to our West Maui families. And then what we had indicated to the State for \$78 million for their consideration was three million for the host family program, and then 75 million in addition in the event that group housing units aren't available through the FEMA program. And this would help provide housing solutions to displaced survivors, and we propose them to provide this funding to our non-profit partners such as CNHA to continue a lot of the good housing efforts that are already under way by our community partners. Some of the other solutions that are already occurring is of course return to residents efforts, so there's area like undamaged units, where we're restoring infrastructure back to the property where people can rehabilitate those homes. There are private builds occurring as well, as well as seeking out for expedited or, you know, temporary structure permitting, and a variety of non-profits have also come forward to propose housing efforts that they'll...can

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undertake under their own organization and dime, and some of these organizations include like the Mennonites, the Baptists, Samaritan's Purse, and others that help provide housing assistance in disasters of like rebuilding homes for people with limited financial means. We are working on an update to the House Maui plan, specifically for West Maui, to help guide infrastructure improvements and the placement and assistance towards permanent housing projects. There are thousands of units in the pipeline, but of course, you know, we want to use the West Maui Community Plan as a guiding document, and the House Maui initiative, you know, was already done in collaboration with the County, Hawai'i Community Foundation, and many other partners. And so, as we're looking to guide infrastructure improvements and repairs, as well as allocations of funding, we are working on an update to that in alignment with the disaster that has occurred, as well as community feedback. So, for FY24 to '27, we're looking at an outlay of approximately 600.5 million. The State request, of course this is...this slide here is representative of four fiscal years, which includes this current fiscal year, but of course the State's request is from FY25 on. Their break out is 401.75 million to the County's 198.75 million. And we did break out infrastructure costs on a 90-10 split with the State with the understanding that the public assistance and reimbursements that may be coming in for eligible activities and programs may be able to be refunded to the State and County's portion as we undergo these Federal reimbursements. And I think...I think that's essentially it. We'd be open for any questions, and thanks, Chair, for allowing us the opportunity to be here with you folks today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Testimony? Anybody signed up?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, staff has ...there's an individual approaching the podium.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

**. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .**

MS. LAW: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thought you cut us off earlier in this thing. Speaking of cutting, the word for this meeting is...this includes Managing Director, 'Āhai 'Ōlelo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. I guess no questions then. Testifier has left the podium. So, Members at this time I'm gonna close public testimony and...with your permission and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I would love to have all of you ask questions of our resources, and we are at 11:49. So, I'm gonna say three minutes, and we'll see how far we can go before we lose quorum. So, Member Kama, please go first.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I have a question for...regarding the interim housing solutions. And so, I'm looking at the page that had February 2025 to August 2025, the 4,000 housing units that's needed. So, what happens after the houses are built and the people are there for a whole year; then what? What happens to them? Where do they go?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So, I mean I think that's a little bit too broad of a question for the different programs, because each program is a little specific. So, for like the FEMA direct lease program, for example, you know, I think what has been demonstrated throughout other disasters across the nation is FEMA will continue to provide this assistance, and I think we've seen in some communities, assistance has been provided for like five to seven years post disaster. Of course, justification has to be provided and individuals have to be making a concerted effort to gaining that stable and secure housing. But that assistance could be available for some time. And there's at least 1,100 households that are qualified for FEMA direct lease program. And that number will fluctuate as people become...rebecome eligible for the direct lease program and may become ineligible because maybe they found a housing solution or whatnot. In terms of the group housing, the thousand group housing units, that would be managed by FEMA for some time, and then at the conclusion of it, you know, the State and the County have had discussions with FEMA about acquisition of the units so that that could continue to be used for housing of displaced survivors. The State group housing units that will be built on HHFDC land that was, you know, in the process of being transferred to DHHL, so the State control...would have control over the land and units, and I believe that there has been a commitment from the State to assist in housing these, especially the FEMA ineligible individuals, for some time as they work to get, you know, the feet back under people following the disaster. For a lot of these solutions, just note that it may require a "like borrowing" of infrastructure, such as like water and/or wastewater for durations, and there will be a point that's hit where repopulation efforts have surpassed . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the ability to continue to borrow from those areas. So, those individuals would need to be placed more permanently as time goes on. And for a lot of the repopulation efforts, of course, getting people back to their properties, would be a more permanent solution or semi-permanent solution as opposed to being on land that was not owned or controlled by the State or County. And I'm sorry, the bell rang.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. That was fast. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, fast, yeah. Thank you very much. Next, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Thanks for the presentation. I actually just wanted to know how much we owe or will be owing. So, all the monies that break down on the direct assistance and this and that that you had on the board, how much of that...or how will we know what FEMA monies require a cost share of some kind, like ten percent?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I mean basically, I think it's reasonable to assume that all of the infrastructure and public facilities' repairs that we're going to have to do is going to be a 90-10 split on the public assistance portion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, the other...the rental assistance and other types of assistance, we don't have to participate in?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair, for the question. If you're talking about like the non-congregate setting that individuals are in now and stuff, that's purely between the State and the Federal Government on the cost share.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, what do you think our ten percent is going to amount to when all is said and done? Roughly...just roughly.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Our estimates for total restoration is about a billion dollars. That's just for, you know, the public assistance eligible activities and projects. And so, our estimate would be about \$100 million that would not be eligible for reimbursement because it will be the cost-share component.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, we'd have to come up with a \$100 million for FEMA. Anything else that we have to pay the Federal Government?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Well, if you're specifically talking about the Federal Government, then I mean that would just be on the reimbursable basis for our, you know, utility restorations and things like that. Separate from that, if you're talking about like resiliency efforts or like projects the community has expressed a desire to do, or like housing efforts or things like that, then that's a whole separate discussion from the public assistance process.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, that would still have a requirement of a ten percent share?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So, like, for example, the hazard mitigation grant

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program, I think is a 75-25 share. So, that could be like, you know, if you want to do resiliency projects in the area and some of the things that the community has expressed a desire to do, we could use Federal funding for that, but we'd have to of course apply and get selected for that. But there would be a 75-25 match. So, it kind of depends on the program we're talking about on the cost share. But the biggest outlay of expenses is the public assistance piece . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . which is a 90-10 split.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you guys for joining us. I got a lot of questions, so I'll try to go through it as fast as I can. The \$8 million HUD Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing program, my understanding is...is FEMA and disasters like this start off with big funds and as time goes down, HUD kind of takes over and starts doing that. Is that what we're seeing right here, and if so, is that eight million going to balloon up to anything higher?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, so I think where you're kind of going with that discussion is where HUD will step in at some point in the future here with CDBG-DR funding.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: The exact timeframes of that we don't know yet, and the exact amount yet that they'll be coming down we don't know yet, because obviously a lot of this depends on what happens at Congress.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. The update on Kā'anapali 2020, you said there was a pivoting, change in mood. Can you expand on that? It was going to be top priority and now it's not. Can...what happened and can you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. And I'll defer to Wendy if she has any other information she thinks can be shared. But I believe that there was some issues with lease agreement and other things that FEMA was working through with the landowner, but I'll defer to Wendy for any updates.

MS. TAOMOTO: Thank you, Chair. The FEMA Kā'anapali 2020 is pivoting. They're not going to do it. They're putting it on hold and pursuing a completion design on the Leialī site, and then they're going to look at the cost for both sides, and then

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make a final decision.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do we know when that decision is going to happen?

MS. TAOMOTO: I would say it would be within two weeks. It's already Tuesday, yeah. Within two weeks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And then if that decision is made, are you going to inform the body or are you guys doing press releases or any kind of sharing of information on that decision?

MS. TAOMOTO: I'll defer to Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I mean, yeah, we can let you folks know --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- when...if FEMA makes a decision, but ultimately this is a FEMA project. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. We just want to spread the word, that's all I'm saying. The next question is about the...all of this depends or much of it depends on you guys applying...the Administration applying for these Federal grants, these Federal funds. I know there's a burden in doing that. How are you doing on capacity? Are you having to...are you at the point where you have to pick which one you're going to apply to, because there's so much efforts in these applications, or can you apply to all in the big umbrella?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for the question. I think if I'm not mistaken--I always get the date wrong--but I think March 19th, you'll have a discussion with our . . .(timer sounds). . . vendor Tetra Tech about some of the different areas that we've hired them on to assist us with. One of the big components is the public assistance piece. So, yes, we do have a capacity issue, and hence we hire experts in this field to assist us. The...kind of separately from that, there's other Federal grants that are available that is a different process to apply for, and a lot of those projects can be identified for actual grant receipt through the development of the long-term recovery plan that FEMA has agreed to pay for, which is about \$3.8 million. But as those projects are identified from the community, then we're able to utilize that for grant assistance.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez.



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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director Nishita and Deputy Director Lau Hee. Mahalo for your presentation and for advocating on behalf of our County at the legislature. In your presentation, I see that it includes several private housing projects, 'Ohana Hope Village, Nāpili...Holomua Nāpili Housing, Kaiāulu o Kūku'ia, and Kaiāulu o Kupuohi. Is there a reason that Pulelehua isn't...doesn't have a slide? It's housing in West Maui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Yes, I think our marching orders when we developed this from the State to help to develop a plan was in anticipation of that FEMA cliff. So, the earliest kind of that cliff would occur would be February 2025. So, this plan was developed with--of course, some factors have changed and you'll see that in the actual projects themselves--but was developed with what projects could be ready to go at least to begin to house people by February 2025. So, it was not anticipated that Pulelehua would have units ready by February 2025. That's the only reason why it wasn't included in this plan. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Oh, but Kaiāulu o Kupuohi is December 2025, and it's included.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, as indicated, some of the factors have changed, which we updated the slides to include, but when this was developed some time ago--it includes even on...I think one of the private projects recently extended their time frames too. In which case we would need to step up...like remove them from the plan and then step up, like, repopulation efforts for example. So, we're just sharing with you exactly...essentially what was shared with WAM. It's not necessarily...we could remove those things or whatnot, but we wanted to kind of share, and I think Chair agendized, what was presented to WAM.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that explanation. The 50 acre parcel that the County will be using as a park in the future, has there been discussion on the use of that parcel?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Yes, we of course want to be able to ensure we get community feedback and whatnot on this. But we are in talks with a non-profit developer for development of permanent housing in that area, which of course, there are conditions on the property . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . which, if the community is supportive of, then we would need to find equivalent park space in a different area in Lāhainā to accommodate the conditions placed on the property.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. But like not just for, like, permanent

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projects, but temporary projects? Because it doesn't need to forever be used as, like, temporary housing. It can be a park in, you know, after ten years or something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I think because a significant portion of the people displaced were renters, there was a concern about the ability to be able to get them back into kind of stable housing. So, the project being looked at there since we were in control of the property, was an affordable rental project to accommodate renters who may be displaced and owners of those properties perhaps not wanting to rebuild in a timely fashion that could meet the needs of the renters. The...of course this is a philosophical discussion about the temporary versus permanent. We do see a need for permanent housing out there already, and the delay could potentially occur by putting temporary units on the property while permanent activities are set to begin. So, it's something we can continue to further discuss with the Council, but that's kind of what we had wrestled with up to this point. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then tomorrow you folks are presenting to the WAM committee again, and is there...is there anything that the community listening in on can help with to advocate for funding since it looks like it's going to be a battle. Yeah, go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I would just note, actually we're meeting with them on Thursday at 9:30 a.m., and the piece I think really to just keep top of mind for everybody is the significant importance of what the money is going to be used for, the needs of our residents, as well as just the current situation that individuals are having to reside in...in, you know, units without kitchens right now. Maybe in order to continue to provide that hope as we look at, like, time being our biggest enemy here for people to have a hope to remain, as well as many people are having to use their insurance money or other resources to continue to provide the housing assistance. The faster that we can get infrastructure restored, the faster that we can get a lot of these programs in place and funded, the more ability we will provide our residents for options to remain and stay here in our community. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question is for whoever regarding

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permitting. I recently did a tour of the FABMAC Homes, and I actually...I wasn't very supportive of them before, but I was impressed with what I saw, and I'm curious if the County has reviewed and refined their permitting approval process for those homes and if they are part of this solution. Because they seem to be an established local company that has been providing them as opposed to a lot of these newcomers. So, my question is what's the status with approving that type of home, and is the County optimistic on it?

MS. TAOMOTO: Thank you, Chair. FABMAC Homes has sought County approval through our standard process for years, and that process hasn't changed. It's called...they're utilizing what we call a plan review waiver process, which is in our regular rules. And they...if you are aware of the Maui Health Foundation lots at the Maui Lani Fairways, that's the process they use to construct those permanent homes on those 16 lots. I don't have any feedback from FABMAC that they want to utilize a different process, but we do have another process in our regular rules called the design registration process, which developers like I'm aware of in Maui Lani like Towne Development, Stanford Carr, they use that process. It's a slightly different process, but FABMAC chooses to use the...from what I see, the plan review waiver process.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My understanding with discussing with them was the...they're striving to use the Federal...federally approved codes that are supposed to meet all standard...all State and County codes because they were approved in the factory.

MS. TAOMOTO: That is the plan review waiver process they're using...I believe they're...you're referring to the HUD certified...it's an existing process we've had for years, and that's the process they've been using.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I'll continue my time. So, how long is our questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: For Managing Director, are we no longer planning on a Class C landfill since the Olowalu permanent site is no longer considered? My understanding, the only reason that the environmental management was upgrading it to a Class C was to go over and above to assure people that there was no hazard, but it wasn't necessary for the fire debris.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. This discussion is very nuance, so ultimately I would have to defer to our infrastructure folks to make sure that I give you the correct answer. But I believe your general assessment is correct that there is a subtitle D...subtitle C landfill was not necessarily required for the materials coming out. Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Okay, real quick though. The County funding request slide from...that you had online wasn't in this packet, and I consume information better if it's printed out. Can you resend that to us? 'Cause it...again it wasn't in here. Can you please also share the information that you guys collected from the survey regarding the permanent site with us? Okay, thank you. And then not necessarily what you presented, but what you said regarding the non-congregate shelter liability with the State, can you please expand on that, if you can?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So, I mean just real briefly, the State is responsible for the ineligibles that are in non-congregate setting. The...I think they're still working through the process of identifying and working with the Federal Government as to, like, what period of time may be covered completely by FEMA. They did ask for an extension of the safe harboring provisions, which would also reduce their overall liability. And then of course, the timeframes involved in which...how long NCS would be continued for. I believe the share was 90-10, is that...yeah. I think it's 90-10 for...oh, okay. And then as time elapses of course, the cost-share component could change, but I think up to this point, beyond the 100 percent coverage period that FEMA already provided has been at a 90-10 split with the State and FEMA. And then they are completely responsible for the ineligibles.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: State is?

MR. NISHITA: State, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: And that's where that 100 million...or 100...no, I'm sorry, a million dollars a day for the hotels, that's where that number comes from?

MR. NISHITA: I mean that's what they're throwing out...I mean that's kind of like on a, I think, a worst case scenario basis as they work with FEMA to, like, identify those ineligibles and work through the process of maybe becoming eligible, as well as who is still in NCS and who has maybe found other accommodations. But that is a very nuance process that they're working through with the Feds right now. So, I think they're giving some estimates of what it could be, and then I think it still remains to be seen about what the actual obligation is.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, Member Sinenci didn't come back, and Member Paltin is still in her other meeting. Yeah? Okay. So, I want to thank you

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very much for presenting this, and it is quite a grind what all of you are living through in our behalf, and whenever I have questions I always send it to you, so you must be inundated with a lot of emails and questions all the time. I just want to say--and thanks for the material--I just want to say that I think that we are all in this together and if there is a way that the Council can assist you, we look forward to, I know, the new fiscal year budget that's going to come up, and that'll tell us a story of the values and the next steps forward. And please know that I anticipate this to be a kind of rigorous process, because of course this has never happened before; there are a lot of sacrifices that I think are...each of our...each of us in our communities will have to do. When I was with the WAM committee last week, one of the questions that they had was how much do you give out in grants? And I've heard that question many times, that Maui County is probably the most generous in the whole state. I will also say at this point that as I close the meeting, but during that meeting last week Tuesday, Senator Lee came up in the hallways and he just said, I hope that you are going to be conservative with your budget, because we are...we meaning the Senators or the legislature's being asked to do that and we want to help you, and I guess they had just heard about our \$401 million ask, and they were thinking how are they going to do that and what are we doing, the County, to be fiscally conservative. So, that's the...that's the one conversation that just sticks in my head, and I know that more information you will be providing to them on Thursday, and I look forward to hearing, you know, the outcomes of that. So, at this time I'm going to defer this item and I think --

MR. KRUEGER: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- are you gonna...yes. I hear a voice.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, Chair. I just saw Councilmember Paltin raise her hand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: I'm not sure...let me see if --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There, I see her video.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, welcome. You have a question? We have Josiah and Keanu and Wendy Taomoto with us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, great. I just...I'm alone in my car at the Westin. I just was meeting with the Department of Human Services about Kalaiola project for the meeting tonight and learned that Kā'anapali 2020 is off the table and that they're looking at other HHFDC lands. But, you know, the big issue is the exit strategy because that Kalaiola project is only supposed to be temporary for five years, so we really need to have permanent housing for folks to move into

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afterwards, and as we kind of said yesterday, I think the best option is Pulelehua because they've already broken ground. My understanding is Kalaiola will be on County water and so, you know, are we just picking and choosing where we're helping folks with County water or, you know, are we being realistic? Since now Kā'anapali 2020 is off the table, I know Article 9, Section 3, is the reason that we're helping shelter FEMA ineligible other than it's human beings that we're talking about. But we got to do parity and equity, so where is the FEMA eligible landing spot? Where is the FEMA. . .(inaudible). . .eligible exit strategy after five years would be my question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Well, so on the interim side, I mean the State specifically is looking at that DHS project to assist the FEMA ineligibles. So, at least for that duration, that would be kind of the primary, I guess, population or whatnot seeking to be served. In terms of long term, I think that it kind of gets back to our discussion previously about like the 50 acre Nāpili parcel and whatnot, is that there is a need for affordable rentals in West Maui. And so, as we look on, like, infrastructure restoration and on builds on like County and State owned properties, that is a key area of concern, not just for eligibles, but also ineligibles.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, how does the County choose who that they are helping with water hurdles? We're helping FEMA ineligible. Are we helping FEMA eligible as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So . . .(timer sounds). . . sorry. Specific to kind of the water issues at play here, there are some challenges involved with like where the projects are located. So, I mean, on one hand--we're facing this too with the 50 acre Nāpili parcel--is the water that was lost is in kind of the southern system and the...a lot of the projects, or even where people want to be located right now just because of the disaster is kind of more in like the northern system, so to say, if you break it out like that. Right now to my knowledge, and I would have to defer to Department of Water Supply folks, but to my knowledge right now, water does not flow from our southern system to our northern system. So, the water that's available is in that area where...I mean at least temporarily, is in the area where the HHFDC lands are and whatnot. The...there are nuances to each project as well. This is why we say repopulation efforts are really the cheapest and quickest method of getting people rehoused is because that's where existing infrastructure and utility services were already. Specific to the, I guess, Pulelehua project just for consideration as a part of their conditions, they were required to provide their own water, and I know that there has been requests from Pulelehua and I think possibly from the Council itself and...for possible modifications to that

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arrangement, to facilitate development faster than maybe the wells will be available, and I think that's ongoing discussions with the...of course the Council, the developer, and Mayor of what's actually technically feasible and then what's best in the interest of restoration of those services to people repopulating in the area. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I just...I mean I think we all visited the Mahinahina water treatment facility, which is, you know, directly above Pulelehua. And every month that we waste...every day that we waste is like a million dollar bill. So, you know, it's been over six months already, and if we can have some serious discussions about bringing in the State and bringing in FEMA and looking comprehensively at the 4,000 somewhat people still in congregate sheltering, the people that are, you know, FEMA eligible, FEMA ineligible. If FEMA builds their temporary housing at Pulelehua or if Pulelehua is the final housing for when people move out of these temporary (*audio interference*). I mean, it's too close to schools, it's close to infrastructure, and so I don't know why we're fighting with them. This is not a normal discussion of, like you said you would provide your own water; it's we have 4,000 people sheltering at hotels at the expense of close to a million dollars a day, and we've been asked to cut expenses. So, we can either work together or continue to hemorrhage money, and all that money that we're hemorrhaging out is not money that's going to be available for the repopulation infrastructure to be rebuilt. I'm just saying. I thought the State asked us to start conserving and, you know, keep the State financially solvent. And if we don't start working on places for these people to move to, either we're going to have a bunch of people in tents, and that'll be not only detrimental for the people, but also for your tourism industry, when it seems like we have a willing landowner willing to work with us, but we're not willing to come to the table. And just for the record, you know, speaking with the folks just now, the Filipino community, the Tongan community, the COFA community, the Latino community, Red Cross isn't helping. FEMA isn't helping. The miscommunication, the lack of communication, all of it, people are at their wits end. So, this is an unsustainable situation we have 4,000 people waiting right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Taomoto.

MS. TAOMOTO: Hi, thank you, Chair. Councilmember Paltin, I'm just going to clarify what I understand about FEMA and the State looking at Pulelehua. So, FEMA did look at Pulelehua, and Water Department did support providing water not only to the school, but to a limited amount of housing units at the Pulelehua site. But ultimately it was FEMA's decision because there was other factors besides water. There would have been infrastructure improvements needed for wastewater transmission of that wastewater disposal to the treatment plant. Those...all those cost factors played into FEMA's decision not to pursue Pulelehua. And for the State, I can definitely bring back to them your concerns and about Pulelehua and get back to them as to what their decision was not to look at Pulelehua. But

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from...for the Water Department, they did provide comments, was willing to provide water for housing temporarily, but wastewater was also a challenge for that site for housing. So, I just wanted to let you know that that was the discussions that I was in...involved with FEMA and water and wastewater. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you. I think we could just keep the discussions ongoing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, I see Member Sinenci popped up back to the meeting. You have a question before we recess and adjourn?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you, Chair. And sorry my meeting ran over and...but my staff has been sending me notes as you guys went along, so I did get some of the glimpse of Josiah's presentation. My question was is the Administration using Strategies 360, Shan's group, to try and help garner support, you know, and address some of the insecurities that our delegates at the State might be experiencing right now?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I believe Shan is no longer with that group if that's what you're referring to. But yeah, we do have Strategies 360 on board to assist us on the State legislative session, and they're assisting us with, you know, tracking bills, providing testimony and things of that nature, as well as meeting with individual legislators and helping to address questions and strategy development for this. Thank you.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have any more questions? I'm gonna...I'm gonna adjourn this meeting and defer this item. Okay, thank you. Thank you very much for staying actually everybody to almost 12:30, and we have a GREAT meeting coming up at 1:30. So, we'll see you shortly. This meeting is...this item is recessed and...this item is...is deferred, and we're gonna adjourn this meeting. . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

ADJOURN: 12:29 p.m.

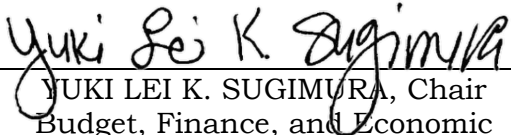


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APPROVED:

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

bfed:min:240227 (1030am)

Transcribed by: Terianne Arreola

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CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 25 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 22nd day of March 2024, in Wailuku, Hawaii



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Terianne Arreola