

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

MINUTES

April 14, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:01 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (In 10:10 a.m.)
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (Out 2:24 p.m.)
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (In 9:05 a.m.)

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokai Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor (All)
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor (All)
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (All)
Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (All)
Wade Maeda, Deputy Chief, Department of Police (BFED-35)
Marc Takamori, Director, Department of Transportation (BFED-1)
Diane Yogi, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation (BFED-1)
Jordan Molina, Director, Department of Public Works (BFED-1)

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

April 14, 2025

Paul Barany, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works (BFED-1)
Michael Kinores, Highways Division Chief, Department of Public Works (BFED-1)
Gary Ambrose, Highways Superintendent, Department of Public Works (BFED-1)
Wade Shimabukuro, Development Services Administrator, Department of Public
Works (BFED-1)
Maria Zielinski, Deputy Director, Department of Finance (BFED-1)

OTHERS: Jasee Law (BFED-35)
Others (13)

PRESS: Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...*(gavel)*... Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It's now 9:01 a.m. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee. And just for your information or the public's information, this meeting is conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Chamber, please identify yourself, Members, and say who is in the room with you, or workspace with you today. And minors do not need to be identified. Today is April 14th, and I look forward to a very productive meeting. Vice-Chair Kama will be joining us shortly. We have Chair Lee. Chair Lee, so good to see you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you. And we can see you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Great. Yeah, nice to see all of you. I don't wish what I have on anybody. I'm...I'm finally starting to be able not to cough for a little while. I'm home alone in my workspace. Koa's outside chasing her bugs. And look forward to your meeting. Thank...oh, the...if you want, the greeting for the day is from Greenland, alouen *(phonetic)*. Alouen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Alouen. Alouen, is that what you said?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, Alouen --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Alouen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou and alouen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Alouen to you, Member Johnson.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Alouen, Chair, Councilmembers, community Members. I'm having a little Internet trouble, but I'm here in the Chambers, and there's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, can you work to get him online? You can't log in, Member Johnson? We have to let you into the meeting? Can somebody pay attention to that? Okay. Thank you. And next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou mai Molokai nui a Hina. I'm at my private residence alone here, and there are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook, alouen to you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Alouen, Chair. Aloha. Good morning. There's no testifiers at the Kihei office, and Jared is on standby if anyone wishes to. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Member U'u-Hodgins will be joining us shortly, and we have Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Chair. And alouen, everyone. I'm here at my home office. I'm here by myself, and there are no testifiers at the Hāna District Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, joining us later will be Member Kama as well as Member U'u-Hodgins. From the Office of the Mayor, thank you, Lesley Milner, for being with us every single day. Department of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, Wade Maeda, good morning. Department of Transportation, Marc Takamori, Director, and Diane Yogi, Deputy Director, in the audience. Thank you very much. Department of Public Works, Jordan Molina, who I'm always amazed at how hard he works. Paul Barany, Deputy Director, also. Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristie...Kristie Wrigglesworth. And also, Committee Staff, Pauline Martin [sic], Yvette Bouthillier, secretaries . . . *(audio feedback)*. . . We have echoey problem. Did we get it solved? Yeah? Okay. Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst, James Krueger, also. Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst. Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst. Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney. Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director of Council Services, and Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for...for today's meeting. And as you know, we have two items on the agenda. One is BFED-35, resolution number 25-30...87, Authorizing the Transfer of an Unencumbered Appropriation Balance within the Department of Police, Fiscal Year '25 Budget. And BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year '25 Budget for the County of Maui. Members, I'll be taking testimony after opening comments for each item today.

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

April 14, 2025

**ITEM 35: RESOLUTION 25-87, AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER
OF AN UNENCUMBERED APPROPRIATION BALANCE
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, FISCAL YEAR
2025 BUDGET**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, for the first item, which is BFED-35, for this transfer, we're starting with this. And as you know, that this was...this item came up before Council's meeting, and we laid it on the Clerk's desk so that we could have discussion today. And then we will vote on it at the appropriate time. So, we're going to defer this first item. Oh, good...good morning, Member U'u-Hodgin.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. So, this is...the Department of Police is...has a total of \$3 million from Category A Salaries to Category B Operations and Equipment. Specifically, this resolution will approve 1 million transfer within the Investigative Services Program, and 2 million transfer in the Technical and Support Services Program. This is telling us we have too much money in employee, right, Category A in our budget. To assist with discussions today is Budget Director Milner and Deputy Chief Maeda. Deputy Chief, would you like to give us some opening comments regarding this resolution?

MR. MAEDA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members. We want to move 2 million from our Support Services salaries program to fund multiple different projects that are already in the works. These are one-time asks that we did not anticipate the added cost. I would like to just remind everybody that the radios are for...that...that we encumber, the cost is for the entire County. It's not just the Police Department, so Police, Fire, County, medics as well. We also want to move over 624,000 as part of that for the daily operations. The costs have risen for the radio shop operations as well as our building maintenance. We're having to repair our Wailuku station, our Lahaina station, and our outer island stations. As they get up in age, the cost is...is...is up there. And these costs...this money is just to cover the cost in case, like, the A/C goes down or something like that. So, it's...it's critical that we have that monies. The \$1 million that we want to move over from Investigative Services Program is to cover our...basically our daily operations. And helicopter expenses, our CI funds, utilities, cell phones, requisitions, regular license renewals, and also additional body transports. The reason why we didn't have enough money in...we don't have enough money in Investigative Services is because of the new contract with Ballard's. The Ballard's contract was unexpectedly higher than we thought it was, and they won the bid. So, we have to cover those costs. And these are the daily operations to...the daily operation costs to cover that to the end of the fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Where is Chief, by the way?

MR. MAEDA: Sorry, I think Chief is not available. I'm not sure, he wasn't in the office this morning.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Members, we will take public testimony on this, and then you can ask them questions, Department questions regarding this resolution. So, do we have any testifiers for this one particular item?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we're not seeing any testifiers signed up. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we have somebody walking up to the podium.

MR. LAW: I'm here, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, testifiers are encouraged, and it will be on this one item, this resolution that we just talked about. You will be...please identify yourself, and also you will have 3 minutes for your testimony and 30 seconds to follow and complete. Anything else? You probably have this --

MR. LAW: Yes, sir.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- memorized because you're here every day. Please proceed.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 35 . . .

MR. LAW: Jasee Law, Waiakoa ahupua'a, Kula Uka. Kāko'o...no, kāko'o, my local Police Department, 99.99 percent, and I support this resolution.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Okay. Now I'm going to, with your permission, close public testimony on this particular item, and we'll receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 35 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And Members, now you can ask questions. Three minutes for this round of the Department, and we will start with Chair Lee, then go down the line, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, then myself. Chair, can you...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I don't have any questions, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Member Paltin?

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Deputy Maeda. I was wondering if any of the items on this list, like the Wailuku parking lot...Wailuku station parking lot is in the FY '26 Budget?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MR. MAEDA: Hi, Member Paltin. No, the parking lot...none of these line items are in...in the Fiscal Year '26 Budget, and that's why we're asking for it right now. If not...if we don't get it this year, we're going to have to come back and ask for the monies to cover the expenses for these projects.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then there's still like a couple, month and a half...two months and a half in the fiscal year. It says that overtime was utilized to compensate for vacant positions, and...but then you have this money, and you don't think it'll impact your operations. I was wondering, are you able to TA/TR people from Police Officer I up to like investigative or technical services, or any other positions, TA and TR?

MR. MAEDA: Thank you, Member Paltin. Yes. We currently are in the works to try to move these people up so we can free up the...the positions. We do have a lot of salary vacancies, but if you look at our PD numbers, they're...they're kind of locked up right now. So, we do have to promote, we have to promote lieutenants, sergeants, Police Officer IIIs, so we can bring up these recruits and have continual recruitment classes. So, we do have...we do have intention to do that as well. And we have the...the vacancies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, as long as DPS doesn't able to post the recruitment, do you utilize TR or TA?

MR. MAEDA: Yes, we do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because you know, I was looking at the adopted versus actual from '22 to '24, and it was like 3.3, 4.1, 4.4 for investigative, and then the answer was overtime was utilized to compensate for vacant positions, vacancies funded positions that were not filled, such as detectives. But still, each of those three fiscal years had over \$3 million, so that's kind of a trend, it seems.

MR. MAEDA: Yes, because we have so many vacancies in detective work that we have...we call people...we put people on temporary assignments to come and help cover those costs. We have to...you have to keep in mind that the salaries for the officers have increased as well. So, they get the SHOPO raises as well as the step movements, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the overtime.

MR. MAEDA: And the overtime, longevity pay. So, when they're in a temporary assignment at a high level of years in the Department, then their overtime is...is significantly higher. And we have to compensate them.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you can find detectives and like that to do overtime?

MR. MAEDA: Yes, we can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Chief. I'm sorry, there was a lot of facts thrown out. I was trying to scribble my notes as quick as I could. The total unencumbered within the Police Investigative Services Program, do you have that number?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. I don't have the total right in front of me, but I do have it by index. So, I'm just going to run through those very quickly.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. MILNER: Technical and Support Services 910166 currently has 777,629 available.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You don't have to do the last, just give me like the hundreds of thousands.

MS. MILNER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm just doing public math.

MS. MILNER: Technical and Support Services 910430 has 1.9 million available; 910174 has 554,000 available; and Investigative Services 910067 has 1.5 million available.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that. You know, the Police Chief came before us earlier, and he was talking...and you can correct my memory on this. It's how he wanted to really cut down on the number of cold cases and really working towards cold cases. And then we're seeing that you guys are moving money out of Investigative division. So, can you tell me how are you going to balance the priority of focusing on cold cases and then not funding those positions?

MR. MAEDA: Hi, Member Johnson. Good question. So, the amount of vacancies that we have in CID now is I think over 20 detectives. So --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wow.

MR. MAEDA: -- we do have the full-time cold case guys that are...are specially assigned. And if there's additional investigation needed on those cases or murders, any kind of high-

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

April 14, 2025

profile cases, we do bring in other people to work on the overtime. So, the vacancies, even though we will move monies, the...the additional vacancies will cover the overtime until the end of the fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, you're not only moving the money, you have the ability to move your people.

MR. MAEDA: Yes, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's...that's...that's important to know. Is there any blowback, or...or do...what's the feedback on this? Like if I'm an officer here and you keep moving me over there, does anybody, like, resist that?

MR. MAEDA: We do it on a voluntary basis unless it's absolutely necessary. And the good thing about our...our people is they rise to the occasion and they actually step up and volunteer for...for this type of work.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Does their pay change?

MR. MAEDA: If they're...if they're put in a higher role, yes, their pay does increase. They get the temporary assignment.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And if they get that temporary assignment, then their...their overtime increases to their new pay?

MR. MAEDA: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Do you think you still can achieve that goal of focusing on the cold cases?

MR. MAEDA: Yeah. So, I think one of the...the community concerns is that because we're moving monies that we're compromising . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . public safety, and...and that's not the case.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. MAEDA: We're not diverting any resources out of the Criminal Investigation Division, so we still have our people dedicated to fight crime in that area.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. And thanks for Director to say how much of actually monies you guys do have. So...okay. My questions have been answered. Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Chair.

MR. MAEDA: Thank you.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez? And after we do this, can you also share with us Friday night when we went to your district meeting and talk about the meeting on Molokai. But anyway, questions for Police.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah, I...I figure we were waiting until BFED-1, and then I'm happy to share a summary at that point. Okay. Aloha, Deputy Maeda. Okay. So...oh man, I lost my place now. Regarding the correspondence that we received...oh, first, a question for Staff, because on the nine pages that break down, I think it's Granicus item 2, correspondence from the Budget Director, and it has the nine pages of the, you know, budget items that's broken out. And it looks to me that it's...it's duplicative, pages 4 to 6 and 7 to 9, but I wanted to make sure it's not the case of the Mondays that I'm having, and it's...it's different, but it looks like it's the same thing. Anyway, so at the bottom of Support Services Program, it has daily operations for \$624,000, and the Investigative Service Program, it has daily operations, \$495,000. And then, you know, the remaining amount is outlined for, like, specific purchase, or whatever it is that the money will be used for. But the daily operations is...is vague. So, is that what you were speaking to in your opening remarks regarding facilities being, you know, older, aging, and needing more repair?

MR. MAEDA: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, the...so the 624,000 for the daily operations on the Support Service Program side is to cover all of our stations. You know, if we have a water leak, a water break, like we had in the previous year in our receiving desk, it cost us well over \$100,000 to repair. That was an unbudgeted emergency item. And so, that's...you know, it's to cover those...those costs as well as there's costs that always arise with the radio shop, the inflation of equipment, there's unexpected maintenance and operation costs that incur that wasn't accounted for because of the...the...the technology or what have you, and that we utilize the monies to pay for that as well. So, the 624,000 is to cover all of our stations, the maintenance for our stations, the radio shop, even dispatch. If dispatch communications goes down, we have to do an emergency procurement to go and get it fixed. So, that should be able to cover us to the end of the fiscal year. Sorry, and then...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo...oh, go ahead.

MR. MAEDA: Sorry. And then to address the 495,000 for Investigative Services, that's the...to cover the rest of the costs for mainly CID when we have investigations. We do DNA profiles, sex assault investigations where they have to do sex assault kits. We get billed on those, and then we cannot really predict the number of cases that come in. So, the 495,000 is...is to buffer that to the end of the fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for those details. And then for Budget Director--aloha, Budget Director Milner--what will be the remaining balance . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . after the transfers from Account A Salaries to Account B Operations? The balance of Account A, if you have that information now.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. For 910116, the remaining balance will be 54,532. For 910067, the remaining balance will

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

April 14, 2025

be 507,159. For 910430, the remaining balance will be 953,843. And for 910174, the remaining balance will be 266,846.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, next we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Deputy. Okay. So, uninterrupted power supply update, is that for like new generators, batteries, or unanticipated operational costs for Technical Support Services Program? Seems like a whole menu of technical backup.

MR. MAEDA: Are you talking about the radio operations?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct.

MR. MAEDA: So, there's a plethora of...of needs that the radio shop has to do, we're trying to get done before this end of this fiscal year. And one of them is the updating of the UPS to support the public radio system and dispatch at the Wailuku station, which is...which is our main station where we dispatch out to calls. We also need the site replacement backup batteries at the various locations that they no longer support operations. They've exceeded life expectancy, so when it goes down, we need to have those batteries up there so we have connectivity, like how we had during the fires. The...the microwave equipment is to support an added cause to the wildfire...wildfire emergency initiative. And then...oh, I see, we want to replace four existing site routers, because the routers, they're obsolete now. One is for the Ukumehame Range to provide Wi-Fi calling for range safety. Three for rapid deploy connectivity at dispatch centers, and then one spare...one spare router as well.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MAEDA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That's it, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's it? Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Good morning. Thank you so much for being with us.

MR. MAEDA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Is your '26 budget, the one that we just discussed, a little bit more reflective of what you guys actually need? Because this is...this is a lot of unexpected unexpectedness.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MAEDA: Yes, Member U'u-Hodgins, it is...it is unexpected, and I did talk to our people about putting in the extra padding for these events, and I've been assured that our Fiscal Year 2026 will have the cushion that we need so we don't have to move these types of monies in the future.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. So...

MR. MAEDA: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, I appreciate your honesty. It's just, this is a lot. When we discussed your guys' budget last year, we were told we couldn't cut too much of your salaries because you needed all of that money to pay for, as we discussed earlier, the vacancies, and you needed that for overtime, but looks like we need it for projects. How far along are you guys on some of these projects? Like I'd assume your resurfacing and pavement parking lot will need a permit. Are you guys ready to go with that?

MR. MAEDA: Yes, Public Works is going to...we're working with Public Works. They're going to actually do the paving for us, so we appreciate that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good. That's awesome. And what about the rest of the projects? Like I see you guys have HVAC stuff that requires a State permit. Are you guys ready to go with that? That's \$57,000.

MR. MAEDA: The HVAC hasn't been encumbered yet, but we anticipate it being encumbered before the end of the fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. A lot of these seems like things you guys absolutely need, so thank you for that. And in this year's budget, it seems like a lot of fun toys, and no offense. I know that you guys need all the equipment, right, to do your guys' job, especially with all the vacancies, so I'm curious how all of this will line up with what you guys are going to do in '26.

MR. MAEDA: Thank you for the question. So, the...the...the radio shop is essential. I mean, with that cost, we cannot get away with it. We...during the wildfire...during the Lahaina wildfire of 2023, we...we recognized that our radio system was the only method of communication that worked. However, there...there still was improvements that we could make --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MAEDA: -- and we identified that there was...there's ways that we could branch out to the public and have the public involved, too, so that they could communicate with us and assist with public safety and evacuations and...and so forth. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MAEDA: -- a lot of these equipments...a lot of this equipment and upgrades, it was reflective of that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

MR. MAEDA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I...I, too, am trying to take down some of the notes, but, Chair, I would just request of the Budget Chair if we could have those numbers of the remaining numbers from these accounts. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Is Councilmember Sinenci asking for the numbers in writing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, maybe...you want it in writing?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, please.

MS. MILNER: Okay. Yes, I'll put an email together now, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: English to English translation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else, Member Sinenci? Oh, you're done? Okay. Okay. My question is, is there an urgency for this?

MR. MAEDA: Thank you, Chair. Yes, there is an urgency for this. If...if...if we do not get the funding, or we're not...if we're not able to move the monies over, I'm going to be back in July before you guys to beg for the monies, because these were monies that were unanticipated costs, and they weren't put into the Fiscal Year '26 Budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So hard, you know. Last year, at the very last minute, we bought a helicopter, or leased a helicopter. And now, at the very last minute, we're being asked to move \$3 million from A Account to B Account, all urgent, all needed. And I think we were told that we weren't going to spend too much more on the helicopter, but we needed the helicopter, so we got the helicopter. And what's in this? Urgent needs for the helicopter. So, I was kind of disappointed that we didn't have Chief here to talk to us today, because we have expectations from the Department that comes from Administration, and that I believe that all of us and our ability to be responsible with fiscal spending, in this case, or saving, comes from what we believe the Administration is...is sharing and doing. So, I'm a little bit disappointed, and I can hear maybe some of the other Members. And yeah, after the wildfire, there was communication problems, but that happened in 2023. And whatever you're adding on in this fiscal year...with '25

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

April 14, 2025

Fiscal Year Budget, could have come up earlier, in my perspective. And I find it also odd that there's a million dollars from Investigative Services, or the two different A accounts, to provide for a million dollars of daily operations. I mean, can we ask for your Department to provide for us a accurate detail of what that means, and what it's going to be used for?

MR. MAEDA: Thank you for the question, Chair. Yes...yes, we can give you a detailed breakdown of the daily operations for both Support Services Program and Investigative Services Program. You know, I do want to point out that any shortfall of the budget falls upon me as I run operations. So, I take responsibility for that, and I apologize for that, Chair and Members. These are monies that we find critical that we need to move over, and we just hope that you guys will allow us to...to move the monies. And I vow to be more fiscally responsible. There...there are costs that we...you know, that the...that the PD has that, you know, it's unforeseen, especially on the radio shop side, but I'm not...I'm not providing any excuse, and I take responsibility for...for the PD's action, and I apologize.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Has a procurement for the identified items . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . been completed, or is it still pending?

MR. MAEDA: Thank you, Chair. So, we...the UPS update, the site battery replacements, emergency equipment, and the generator engine replacement is all out to bid. The sole source purchase...their sole source purchases for the Nextivity Shield, the Motorola mobile radios, and the microwave link system, and then we are doing a contract amendment for the communications helicopter for...sorry, the communications equipment for the helicopter, which is a system that we'll be able to use for the next ten years. The current system that they're operating on is going to be obsolete, and we want to be able to use that monies for the radio system, and then that...it'll...it pays for itself, basically. There's no encumbered cost after that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...okay. My bell went off. Going back to Chair Lee. Second round of three minutes. Yeah, I know you had no questions earlier.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I still don't have any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, Member Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering if you could expand on your answer to Member Cook about... I...I know that the infrastructure for the 800 megahertz also benefits Fire and Ocean Safety. Public Works and others are also buying radios, Motorola 6000s, or something like that. How does this infrastructure assist also the general public, like how you were saying to Member Cook?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MAEDA: Yeah. So, if you guys recall, when we had the budget hearing, we were trying to implement the PS...PSS system, which will allow us to have the public be able to join up on our system during...during emergencies. So, during the fires, there were people that were at the hotels that...security directors, that...that wanted to communicate to us, but...but they couldn't because their cell service was down, they didn't have any radios. The...this...what this would do was to be able to bridge the gap, not only to the...those entities, but to Public Works and other entities, County entities out in...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then how do you control it so people aren't just like making fart noises or something on the thing?

MR. MAEDA: Every unit has a...has a unique identifier, so you know who's utilizing the...the...the equipment, and then it's assigned to an individual. If the...if the...if the radio is stolen, then we have a way to disable the radio, where they cannot transmit.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. There was a time when there was a lot of barking--

MR. MAEDA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in my previous.

MR. MAEDA: Yeah, we...we...yeah, we got rid of that system.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. MAEDA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then in your answer to Member U'u-Hodgins, you were saying that you'd be more fiscally conservative. Also, in Category A, are you talking about? Because you know, Fiscal Year '22 to '24, in the Investigative Services, there was like 3.3, 4.1, and 4.4 million carryover, if we could bring that down a bit?

MR. MAEDA: Yeah, so that...that has a direct correlation with our...our recruitment. The more...the more Police officers and civilians that we hire, the...the more Staff we fill, then the overtime goes down. So, right now, to...because we don't want to compromise public safety to do that, then we have guys work on overtime basis to...to cover that. However, when we do fill the ranks, the overtime will go down. Overall salary expenses will go down.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But...but this year, this fiscal year, we have 1 million and 2 million that would have otherwise been carryover.

MR. MAEDA: Yes, it would have been carried over.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But we're trying to get that down.

MR. MAEDA: Yes.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I guess I really don't have much of a question because I think it's the Carryover/Savings that bothers me a lot, is that I'd rather have this money spent on things that the Department needs, such as radios, very important. And the...as far as the Blue Thunder, is it called, the Blue Thunder? You know, we're already...we're already involved, so we might as well finish the job, is where I'm thinking. But also, on Lānaʻi, when I came to...went home this past weekend, it's hunting season. So, all the hunters are out in the middle of nowhere. No cell phone service, that's just part of the culture. People love to hunt on Lānaʻi. But if you lost, right now, we can only find you during the day. With a helicopter, we can search for you at night. And you know, everybody follows social media. On my social media right now, there's a missing boater in...in...off of Big Island. And I don't know if that would be something you guys could help because it's a different county. But when people are lost at sea, I want them to be found even at night, you know. So, I...I support...yeah. Oh God, yeah, that's terrifying. You know, I would totally want us to have that capability. So, I appreciate the...the Blue Thunder. But I think the fact that we...you know, we're doing...I don't want us to have Carryover/Savings. And that goes across all departments, not just us picking on you guys. But the Carryover/Savings is what kills us, I think. So, if you find...if you find important uses of it, I'll support it. It is surprising, though, when you have a big chunk like that. You know, and I...that just...it seems to be that we are having such a hard time recruiting over and over again. The story is, I've heard it 1,000 times, Deputy Chief. So, I understand where you're coming from. I just wanted to lay that out. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Cook and U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'm going to follow up on the last question I asked in my first round. Okay. So, we just heard that there are 20 detective positions that are vacant. The intent of my question earlier about the balance of Account A was to better understand if there would be enough to cover salaries if positions were filled in the last two months of this fiscal year. So, I guess, along with Chair's request for the detailed breakdown of the cost described as daily operations, I'd like to see the list of positions. So, I just went into our budget narrative, and there's 109 positions in Investigative Services and 125 positions in Support Services. And I know that Chief did give us a sheet when Police was before us, and that's Granicus item 91 under BFED-1, MPD vacant positions. So, I guess I...I think, along with everyone else in, you know, being uncomfortable about the sheer amount of Carryover/Savings that we're recognizing to transfer from Salaries to Operations, you know, understanding what positions and like the, you know, was it, you know, 12 months of salary that we had approved for all these positions, and then they all added up to \$3 million? I'd like to see the details of that. I think for...in the MPD vacant positions, positions as of April 2nd, 2025, there were 31 total patrol...I'm probably not reading this right. Oh, Sergeant

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

April 14, 2025

Detective 30, lieutenants 8, captains 2 positions that are vacant. So, I think this gives us a little bit of a better idea of where the...the money is coming from. But since we do have the list in the, you know, Program Budget detailing every position by title, I'd...I'd like to know...I'd like to see that same list of positions and the vacancies there. Because I appreciate this vacancy list, but I don't know what D1, D2, D3, D4 is when I'm looking at the Program Budget, which lists, you know, Emergency Services Dispatchers 38 positions, Firearm Legal Instrument Examiner, Firearms Registration Clerk, Information Systems Analyst, Information and Educational Specialist. So, I'd like to see that. Is that possible, before we, you know, pass this on first reading?

MR. MAEDA: Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, we can provide that for you. We'll...we'll get that . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . breakdown for you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Perfect. So, do you need that in writing? You got it? Okay. We'll send you something in writing. Member Cook, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I don't really have any more questions. It sounds...my question, how much does Department of Personnel Services impact your hiring?

MR. MAEDA: They...they really don't impact it as much as DPS. Yeah. They...they...although we're short-staffed, they work very hard and...and they get the paperwork up to DPS and then it's up to DPS to get it back to us. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. That's it, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Uu-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. All my questions have been asked and answered, but I do want to say I do appreciate your apology. I will say that I disagree that all of this can fall on one person's shoulders out of a Department of a few hundred, and if it does fall on one person's shoulders, that means you guys don't have any checks and balances, and I hope that's not the case. So, while I appreciate your apology, I don't think anything is ever one person's fault. Thank you.

MR. MAEDA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's nice. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. I didn't have any questions; however, I did want to make mention that while our meeting on Molokai, there were some additional requests from the community of the Department of...the...the Police Department. So, I mean, there's other things, other you know, districts that have their needs as well, too. So, I'm hoping that, you know, the Department can come together and...and speak with

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

April 14, 2025

their, you know, the other districts that...that have their own requests. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, this \$3 million in Category A for Fiscal Year '25, is there a corresponding reduction proposed for Category A in Fiscal Year '26? Is it Budget Director, or is it who?

MR. MAEDA: I'll answer that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. MAEDA: -- Chair. No, we...we...we don't have any plan on reducing that amount.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, Carryover/Savings of this magnitude really came from when we did the last budget. And I think we need to scrutinize closer what we're doing for all departments. And...and see how...see how this impacts, we the taxpayers, or the taxpayers, right? That's what we're talking about. And large Carryover/Savings like this is questionable, or brings up questions, not questionable, brings up questions. So, that's what's happening here, in case there's anybody watching on Akakū, wondering what we're talking about. And I just want to say, Deputy Police Chief, that I know that you work really hard, and actually, I'm...I too, like Member U'u-Hodgins, cannot imagine that this is just your...your doing, you know, because it takes a whole department. And as I said, when I opened this, that last year at the last minute, we had a helicopter come up, and now we have \$3 million. You know and it's like, the one that was questionable for me is of this broken down between the two divisions is a million dollars of daily operations. So, what...what's up with that, you know? And...okay. Anybody else have any more questions? Okay. If not, I'm going to...I'm going to defer this. And as you...oh, you have, Member Johnson?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, Member Rawlins-Fernandez . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay, I didn't see you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just for the public watching, because you mentioned Carryover/Savings and how it brings up questions, this one is very specific. It's salaries to operations. And so, we...we asked which positions are not filled, and that's where the money is coming from. So, it's not like a mystery. We just need the details to be public so that the public can see which positions it's coming from. It's...it's nothing nefarious or anything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin? Are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Also, I don't...I don't...I wouldn't characterize the helicopter as last minute. It was based on the after-action report that the...that came about from, I guess, the Fire Department and the Police Department, which took a while after the fire, and the need for night capabilities. So, it's not that they rushed to us and said, hey, let's get a night helicopter. It was based on the Fire and Police action...after-action reports, which the timing of that doesn't care about our budget, I guess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else? Seeing none. Okay. So, I'm going to defer this item, Members, and then we'll take action at the Council meeting on the 17th.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: TK).

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, thank you very much, Deputy Chief --

MR. MAEDA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for joining us.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, at this time, then, I'm going to continue on with our agenda, and I wonder if Transportation, and I see Jordan Molina also up there. If you can come up here, we'll get opening comments from you. We'll now continue on with our deliberations --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- but wait, just a second. Before I do, I was going to just announce you. So, while the departments are coming down and setting up, I wonder if Member Rawlins-Fernandez will then give a report on last week's Friday Molokai meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No reason to wonder, I already said I would. Mahalo, Chair. We had a wonderful hearing on Molokai last Friday. Mahalo to Keo, Darin, Zhan and 'ohana Lindo for helping to set up a beautiful space for our meeting and cleaning up after. Mahalo to our volunteer, Kānāwai, for helping to register testifiers and encourage everyone to complete the budget surveys. I believe there were 29 surveys that were completed and submitted, more than any other district hearing. So, that is a challenge to you all, and the survey can be found on mauicounty.us, and the deadline to submit your survey online is April 18th. Member Sinenci, U'u-Hodgins, Paltin,

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

April 14, 2025

Sugimura, Johnson, Cook, and I were in attendance. Our Committee Staff were Megan, Criselda, and Jennifer. There were 25 individuals who provided oral testimony and 7...70 pages worth of written testimony. Many in the community were thankful for the funding and asked that we continue to support MEO STEMWorks and transportation, student travel grants, Molokai Community Health Center, festivals and events that honor our culture and history, resiliency hubs, energy, food distribution, our Molokai Arts Center, and our rural health program. Testifiers asked for support to improve services for senior citizens and kūpuna, including meals and mental health. 'Āinapa'a Wrestling Team happened to be hosting their very first wrestling tournament the next day and asked that County invest in a new gym or a facility that can better support wrestling and other youth sports. And finally, about half of the testifiers spoke in depth and lent their support for the renovations of the National Guard Armory to serve us as Member Sinenci just mentioned a few minutes ago. Temporary relocation of the police station to get our Police out of the tsunami and flood inundation zone for their safety and the safety of over 3,000 pieces of evidence, and to show our Molokai police force how much they are valued and appreciated. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Also, what you didn't say that you did that night is you gave all of us a gift from Molokai, from your yard, right? So, why don't you talk to us about this taro plant? I have it on my desk, Keani, or Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. For all the Councilmembers that were able to make it to Molokai, we had harvested our kalo from our yard the week before, and I gifted everyone a kalo from Molokai. And you don't have to worry about invasive species because we don't have the Coqui, we don't have LFA, so we won't be spreading anything from Molokai to Maui, and we appreciate funding to support it to remain that way. No CRB. So...yeah. So, mahalo for attending, and...oh, Chair Lee wants one. Okay. All right. All right. I will bring one over for you. She had her hand up, Chair. Let's see if I'm correct in guessing what she's guessing, what she wants to say.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, Chair, I was going to ask Member Rawlins-Fernandez if my kalo plant was in the mail.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's coming over by plane, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I have it on my desk. Chair Lee, you can look at it when you come to the Chambers and enjoy it. So, that was a very nice gift, and I thought I would bring it so the community and the Members who weren't there, like Chair Lee and Member Kama, I think, weren't there, then you can be envious. So, thank you. I think I'm going to ask that Member Paltin take it home and take care of it so it can...it can survive because George is a landscaper. Maybe not. She didn't say yes yet. All right. So, Members, tonight...

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for caring about the well-being of the kalo, of Hāloa. And I'm happy to, you know, like help you re-home if you don't feel confident in helping it live and thrive where you are.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's...that's all my plants. Member Paltin, I didn't hear what you said. Turn on your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I said I guess we'll hānai your pē.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Tonight we have the South Maui Residency Area Meeting. Thank you, Member Cook, for inviting us, and we will begin 6:00 at the Kihei Community Center for that. All right. So, that was the fun part. So, at this time, then I'd like to invite Department of Transportation, Marc Takamori, to provide any opening remarks and introduce any personnel you have with you today. And Members, for your information, he has provided his initial TD-1 on Granicus 27, Transportation letter and responses are there. Department question, the second one, which is TD-2, I checked with Director, and he has...actually has responses, but we haven't received it. That will appear on 102 in Granicus. So, 27 and 102 in Granicus for TD-1 and TD-2. Director? I'm sorry, what?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, they were uploaded? Okay. So, they're uploaded. My notes are a little old. All right. So, both responses are there. Director?

MR. TAKAMORI: Good morning, Chair Sugimura and Committee Members. I am Marc Takamori, the Director for the County Department of Transportation, and with me in the gallery is Deputy Director Diane Yogi. Thank you for having the opportunity to present to you this morning. Today, in keeping it short, I would like to highlight the key proposed changes to the Department's budget compared to last year's approved allocation. So, specifically, the Department is requesting the following. Three new positions. We are requesting funding for six months for three new positions. These...these roles are critical to support our ongoing Departmental efforts, and the implementation of new programs designed to enhance our transportation services. MEO Electric Bus Grant, we are seeking a one-time appropriation of 475,000 to provide a grant to Maui Economic Opportunity for the purchase of one 14-passenger, 2-wheelchair accessible electric bus. This investment aligns with our commitment to sustainable transportation options within the community. Human Services Transportation Grant increase, we are requesting an increase of \$544,175, or a 7.14 percent increase for MEO's Human Services Transportation Grant. This increase is necessary to address rising costs associated with prevailing wages, software licensing fees, vehicle maintenance, and insurance premium increases while ensuring the continued provision of vital transportation services to those in need. New Ferry Program allocation, we are requesting \$2 million to initiate the development of a new ferry program for Maui County. These funds would enable the Department to engage

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

April 14, 2025

consultants who will conduct essential environmental reviews, define the scope of work for operating and maintenance contracts, develop vessel specifications for design and procurement, and proactively research and apply for potential ferry grants and other external funding opportunities. The Maui Bus service contract increase, we are requesting an increase of 992,500, or 5 percent for our Maui Bus service contract. So, each contract, that's the total request, but it would...it would be allocated to the fixed route, commuter, and paratransit contracts. And these...these...as these contracts enter the third year of a five-year term, this represents the first proposed increase...increases to their contract amounts. So, this adjustment is necessary to address the rising operational costs for our service providers, including prevailing wage increases, utilities, fleet maintenance, and insurance premiums while ensuring continued reliability and quality of our public transit system. Department vehicle purchase, we are requesting \$70,000 for our Department to purchase one four-wheel drive midsize pickup truck with a crew cab and lift gate. While a similar request was made in previous fiscal years, bids exceeded the allocated funding, so...so we never moved forward with that request at the time. So, this revised request reflects a critical need for the Department to acquire its first dedicated vehicle, allowing our employees to conduct field work more efficiently and safely without relying on personal vehicles. In addition to these operational and programmatic requests, the Department also has several continuing and new capital improvement projects that are vital to enhancing our transportation infrastructure and services within Maui County. We'll be happy to provide further details on these projects as needed. Thank you for your time and consideration of these budget highlights for the Department of Transportation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Director. Next we have Director Molina from the Department of Public Works. Good morning.

MR. MOLINA: Good morning. Good morning, Chair Sugimura and Members of the BFED Committee. I'm Jordan Molina. I'm the Director with Public Works. We have several of our division Staff here with us today, but I'll introduce them later when we bring them down for questions. First off, I just want to take the opportunity to mahalo our Budget Director for all her work endeavoring through another annual budget process. So, mahalo, Lesley. And with that, I'm going to provide some...some high-level comments on our programs just because there's just too much to get into for Public Works. So, what you'll see in our budget this year in regards to our personnel is we continue to refine and develop our organization with expansion positions and reallocations. I know expansion can be a scary word sometimes, but it is a necessary tool to allow us to adapt and refine our organizational structure to make sure the team and the program we have meets the needs of today and not 70 years ago. One of our bigger salary impacts you'll see is our engineering schedule, salary schedule, which received a bump earlier this year, which was a critical move to stave off a pending exodus of engineers looking for higher pay in other programs. So, you'll see that throughout the budget in the various Department programs. We also have an emphasis this year on training and professional development, which we recognize as a major need to continue to grow not just Staff, but our supervisors and encourage and equip our supervisors to be able to move up in the organization and continue to support the operational needs of the Department. We don't survive without our supervisors, and we need to ensure that we're motivating and

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

April 14, 2025

preparing them for...for their careers within the County and to be able to respond. And then we have some various recruitment incentives to try and get more people in the door through our application process. Notably, we're trying to help cover the cost of physical exam for our frontline laborers that come into the County, because this is...can...that can be a big expense for people at that pay level. Moving into our operations, you'll see increases for our flood program as we continue to grow into this new responsibility and understand the depth of all the requirements. It is much more than just processing permits for flood reviews. The requirements for compliance of the overall program are much more extensive than we initially understood, and so we are growing into those areas. We also continue to support our permitting office with Lahaina recovery permit funding, as well as expanding into third-party reviews for our building permits to help bring down the backlog that we have in DSA. Countywide...or Department-wide, excuse me, we are looking at radio replacements to get everything operational and up to...to par. During the wildfires, as MPD noted previously, our County radio system was a critical lifeline, and so we recognize the importance of having those radios functional and operational across all our districts. We continue to grow our responsibilities in South Maui, and so you'll see an effort to expand to provide a South Maui district within our Wailuku Highways program to provide better coverage and response in the South Maui region in response to the flooding that we are becoming more accustomed to down there, as well as our traffic challenges. Along with all this growth comes a need for more space, so you'll see baseyard lease, as well as maintenance programs expanding to continue to support...to provide operational support so we can continue to respond and protect our equipment as well. In addition, we have some operational fundings for efficiencies with contracted services and overtime to allow us to better schedule our time. Working in the roads, traffic is always a conflict, and it requires us to think about off-hour responses to improve the efficiency of our crews and the safety of not working in heavy traffic areas during peak hours. Lastly, into our CIP, maintenance and repair. That's what we do at Public Works. We want to keep the life of our infrastructure...infrastructure investments extended to the extent possible, so a majority of our CIP budget is our...keeping our roads and drains functional. And then, of course, we have our premier project being requested for our Wai'ale Road extension. This is a major undertaking for the Department, probably the largest project in the history of the Department, seeking that funding for this year. And then lastly, funding continued for Lahaina recovery, roadway, and drainage repairs needed to respond to the wildfire impacts that we experienced. So, that's the end of my opening comments. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, Members, the Department of Public Works has...their responses are number 33 in Granicus, and 102 and...I'm sorry, 103 and 1...115 are their other responses that we're waiting for, but that's the Granicus item. So, 33 has...has Public Works-1, Public Works-2 is 103, and 115 is Public Works-3. Okay. So, at this time, do we have any testifiers waiting?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's currently no individuals signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see somebody running to the podium. Yes, can you do a last call after this?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .

MR. LAW: Jasee Law again. Aloha kakahiaka. Aloha kākou. Aloha Akakū. Aloha Pō‘akahi, Ka ‘Aha o ke Kalana o Maui. Department of Transportation directly interacts with the public with the help of Roberts Hawai‘i more than any other Department of the County, in my opinion, and also represents Maui County when dealing with the United States of America. So, mahalo, ke ke‘ena, for your work for the County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have questions for the testifier? Seeing none. All right. Last call.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. This is the last call for oral testimony. Please come up to the podium and raise your hand on Teams if you would like to testify. The countdown is three...two...one. Seeing none, Chair. No one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, what I’m going to do is...oh, with your permission, can I...we’ll close public testimony and we’ll receive written testimony.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And we’re going to do questions starting with Member Johnson, and go down the row, for Transportation and then take Public Works. So, Mister...Mr. Director Molina, you can sit here or you can cruise. Okay. You can come back. We’ll call you back. All right. So, Department of Transportation, Member Johnson, three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I took the ferry over yesterday. It was a lovely day. Someday there’ll be a County seal on the side of that ferry, just saying, really hope so. So, you know, of course, I want to thank you for responding to a lot of the questions that I had about the ferry. You guys went in depth and I appreciate your responses. So, I’ll have a few questions in addition to. So, who will you contract for the consultant for the ferry grants? Did you find somebody yet?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Johnson. As of right now, we are not in any contract. We would have to basically...we would have to go through the procurement process.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. You know, I think I basically just asked you directly, do you plan to purchase the ferry this year or next year? And I...my...the way I read your response was next year, but I'd like to hear if I misunderstood that. Do you want to elaborate on that?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question. I guess there's a process before we can get there, and part of that process is ensuring that we go through the environmental review phase, and that needs to come first. So, before we can purchase anything, we have to do the environmental review, and that...that's part of the reason why we're asking for the funds this year.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right, so my understanding is environmental reviews may take as short as nine months. Is that your understanding as well?

MR. TAKAMORI: I'm...I'm not sure how quick we can get through it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you have an estimated time?

MR. TAKAMORI: We're hoping within...within the next fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So...all right. Thanks for that response. I'm going...I'm going to pivot, but once again, full support, ferry, yes please, yes please. Okay. I want to kind of talk about the...the response you had was really fascinating. We said, what are your wages for your CDL drivers and the mechanic assistants, and I think they were 27 an hour...\$27 an hour, and then your response was, and then we have a national shortage of CDL drivers, and we have a national shortage of mechanic helpers and mechanics. And...and then you look at the pay rate and they...they are the lowest. So, do you think the...the...the wages are a correlation to the...the shortage of these...these workers? It's not the class, you think it's the class, you think it's the cost to get a CDL license, or all these factors, or do you think it's the actual wages?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question. I...I think it comes down to competition, and if...a lot of times when the economy isn't doing so hot, there is more workers available, but when the economy is doing very well, a lot of the...to my understanding, a lot of the employees that would potentially be CDL drivers for MEO or for Roberts --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- would leave to go work for a construction . . .(timer sounds). . . company.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: So, I think it comes down to what...what can be offered, and usually private industry is able to pay higher than what...what our contracts usually offer.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And the CDL drivers are through Roberts of Hawai'i?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: Both MEO and Roberts --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Both.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- both --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- hire CDL drivers.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks for your response, Director. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director. Mahalo for being with us today. Okay. So, I will stick to the ferry. So, for the environmental review, that's the estimate for the 2 million. In goals and objectives, objective to hire additional staff, three for FY '26. Can you explain for next year how or why...where the three positions would come from? Or like, why are we estimating having three positions if for this...for FY '26, we're going to be...the Department's just going to be focusing on doing the environmental review?

MS. YOGI: Good morning. Thank you for that question. Basically, our Department is very small. So, the...the positions that we're requesting is not only going to be working for the...on the ferry project, but also to work on other projects as well. We currently...if we do have another project such as the ferry system, then we would...we're requesting the Program Manager because our current Program Manager is working on the Park Maui Program. So, we would need that expansion position. And the Accountant, we currently do not have a Staff Accountant. So, with the projects that we have and the programs that we have, we are requesting that position. The Administrative Assistant, we would like that person to not only help with the ferry system, but they would be working with...assisting with the Department as a whole. So, basically, we're hoping that if we do move forward with the Ferry Program, then we would be able to recruit and expand with those positions as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that response. And totally understandable that a new program would need Staff. In the Program Budget, it says that the Ferry Program does not have E/P funded through the General Fund. How would those positions be funded? Or how do you anticipate funding those positions in FY '26 if the Ferry Program moves forward?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question. I believe if the...if the positions are...are approved, I think we're asking for half-year funding, and I believe Budget Director can correct me if I'm mistaken, but I believe it's going to be funded out of the General Fund, from the General Fund.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Our...our Program Budget specifically says the Ferry Program does not have E/P funded through the General Fund. So, I know we don't currently do have it, but it's not even in the budget anticipated to have General Fund appropriated for these positions. I'm happy to support that, it's just not in the Program Budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not that I can see, and maybe Budget Director can direct me.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. I believe those positions are included under the Administration Program. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, we can correct that in the Council adopted and just state rather than not being funded under the General Fund, they're not being funded under the Ferry Program.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins to follow, and before we do that, welcome, Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair. Great to be here. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Good morning.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for the Director, page 761 in the proposed budget, where the Department oversees capital improvement program, which includes the review of all bus stops, which determine whether ridership meets the designated threshold for shelter. My question is, how much does the location count in determining? It seems like, you know, Maui has such a variety of environments, and the...some places have high rainfall, some places are really sunny, and actually, I was...a while ago, when the...when the service started just ramping up, I was always curious, like, what is that group of people standing on the side of the road? Like, they don't look like they're related or doing anything, and it was a bus stop. And so, and I'll give...it's a two-part question. It's not that complicated, but I'm also curious what the high and low range of what a bus stop shelter would cost. My understanding is whether you have to deal with utilities impacts it a great deal. But I'm a big fan of bus stop shelters. Thank you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Thank you for the question, Councilmember Cook. So, with regards to how we determine what areas we're looking to improve or install a bus stop shelter, we usually start with the ridership, how high of a ridership, so how high of a demand. Then we move on to if there is enough right-of-way. A lot of...there are certain areas

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

April 14, 2025

where you could have a high ridership stop but no right-of-way, which makes it very difficult based on the space that we need to accommodate a shelter. And then the third is usually community feedback or Councilmember feedback, if...if, you know, your constituents come to you and say, hey, we need, you know, for you to consider a stop here. Can you, you know, relay the message to us or, you know, fight for it? A lot of times we take into account what feedback we get to select some of those sites.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. So, with my remaining time, is there a...is there like a standard plan or do you change it according to the various locations?

MR. TAKAMORI: I guess it just depends. We...we have a plan. We kind of know what...what areas we...we consider. But again, it does come down to community requests or feedback.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I guess I should have rephrased that. Is there a standard design?

MR. TAKAMORI: Oh. Yes, thank you. And sorry, I didn't actually answer your...the cost, right, because you asked about the cost, the low and the high. So, a lot of the cost comes out for ground infrastructure upgrades. And so, depending on maybe . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . maybe a shelter...ground infrastructure upgrades with a shelter can cost around maybe \$100,000, but depending on that site, we do have one specific site that we're installing a shelter. We're under construction right now to install a shelter, but we were also required to relocate a waterline. So, we're doing a small waterline realignment and that...that added a lot to that...that shelter cost as well. So, it just depends. So, it can range from around 100,000 and more, depending if there's additional requirements on us to...to relocate the utilities.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair. I'll wait my further questions for my next round.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Good morning. Thanks for being with us today. I appreciate all your folks' answers. It's very thorough. I don't have too many questions, except Pā'ia really needs parking. Makawao needs parking too. There's a County parking lot in Makawao, but Pā'ia really needs parking. What's the likelihood of you folks expanding Park Maui to Pā'ia, and if...if it's a great likelihood, then when?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. I guess I...I'm aware that there is a possible private owner of land near the, I guess, Pā'ia Post Office that I think in order for that project...whatever project that person is trying to move forward, they're supposed to allocate additional parking stalls that would, I guess, eventually be turned over to the County as a County parking lot?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, David Spee's project.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. So...so, I'm aware of that project. I'm not sure where that timeline is for that project, but that would help with the parking issues within Pā'ia Town. We...we are aware of the parking challenges within Pā'ia Town, and...and we are open and considering the possible expansion of Park Maui into --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- Pā'ia. We know that we'll have to have additional public engagement for it, so it might not happen in the next phase, but it's --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- going to be part of a plan, so maybe within the next couple years or so, we'll be getting there.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I can appreciate that. I will say the parking lot next to the post office, or rather potential parking lot next to the post office, will be determined if the person goes through with all of his anticipated projects, and then we as a County will receive that space and can produce more parking. But that's like, if it goes through, and that will be probably a long time coming, so maybe we can talk stories on what we can do in the interim, and what we can do if that project doesn't go through, and what we can help with people parking in Pā'ia. Because it's becoming...it's becoming a little bit dangerous, and people just park where they shouldn't park, and it's just kind of normalized, and it does kind of get my goat, because that's not how I park. And seeing people park in places that are made for like loading areas, or maybe someplace they would park if there was an emergency, and it's just not available, which is not your fault how people park, but maybe we can continue to talk stories and figure out something for Pā'ia. And I appreciate your time. That's all for me, Chair, I won't need a second round. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And Mahalo, Director, for your presentation. And just, I guess, congratulations on all of the Federal funding and the grant awards that you received, nearly for...\$40 million for...for Maui projects. Just a general question about, is there any concern from the Federal side that these funding is secure?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Sinenci. As of right now, our understanding is, as long as we are in grant with FTA on how we plan to spend certain funds, those...to our knowledge, none of those type of grants has been touched by the Federal Government in terms of canceling it. There are some concerns about future funds that you, or the County, or municipality, or whatnot, may have applied for and gotten awarded, and if you're not in grant or contract with FTA, then there could be some concerns, depending on what the, I guess, Federal Administration may be looking for. So, I think what we are kind of working through right now is ensuring that when we go into grant for specific funds, we phrase it in a way that works towards the, I guess, the current administration's goals.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then for the grant award on the transportation program grants, is...are...are those covering some of your CIP projects? In the amount of 12,400,000.

MS. YOGI: Thank you for that question. Actually, no, those do not cover the CIP projects. Those grants cover more bus replacements, bus purchases. That is not included, currently included in our CIP.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. And then for Director, it looks like for those CIP projects there, we're using roughly \$200,000 in general...general funds. Is that the 20 percent match to a lot of these Federal funds?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Sinenci. As of right now, the funds that we're requesting in...in CIP are primarily County funding. We can...we actively look to see if we can utilize Federal funds, but as of right now, because some of our requests are for planning and design, those are typically requested for County funds.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you for that, Director. Thank you, Chair. That's all for now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. So, Department, looking at your CIP, if we continue on with Member Sinenci's questions, and maybe this is for the Budget Director, you are going to get your Federal money, you...you have said, so any of this can be transferred instead of using General Fund? Can we...are we going out to bond for these projects?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember. I guess for some of the funds, I...I believe that because they're planning and design, I believe that's why it's...it's being funded in cash. I'm not quite sure if those can be done via...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. We can certainly look at if any of these would be bond eligible, as we discussed when I believe the Fire Department was here this year. As much as we could, we did try and put things under cash, but if the Committee would like to consider putting some under bond, if they could send that in writing, we'd be happy to provide a list of bondable projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, we can send that question, probably a question for all the departments, as it would relate to their CIP.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I agree with that. Can we expand it to all departments?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Okay. Because that question, you know, is a biggie, right, for us. All right. And I guess I'll take up then in the...in the budget for Transportation. You do have rates and fees. So, it's page 31 of...of Bill 41. But in Department of Transportation, there are some changes that you're recommending, and I wonder if you could talk to us about those changes. So, it's on page 52 and 53, and it's the...it's in rates and fees.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Sugimura. Yes, we are proposing some possible rates and fee changes for consideration. Within the Public Transit Program, we are working through the possibility of microtransit in the future, so we will be coming back, most likely to the ADEPT Committee to talk about microtransit and...and make some ordinance changes for the program. But we are proposing to match the microtransit fares to be similar to the paratransit fares, since it would be a service that would be more of a curb-to-curb type service. So, those are the ones that you will see on page 52. I guess...and then for page 53, with regards to the Parking Revenue Fund, we are making some changes, or proposing some changes here. As we . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . move forward with...with the Park Maui Program, we're setting up some fares for the beach and parks parking passes, as well as putting in a Wailuku Garage events permit fees for when we allow activities such as like First...First Friday to utilize the parking garage. So...but again, we will be back to make some more ordinance changes as we start to expand for beach...beach parks. And so, that's where we're putting in, or proposing these changes in...in rates and fees at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thanks for covering it. And basically, the event costs for the Wailuku Parking Garage, I think this say \$50, is that right? Okay. And maybe I'll come back to it so you can explain it more. Then I'll go back to Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you...oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee? Chair Lee, do you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Yes, I do. Mark, with regard to your funding stream, how much...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait, wait, wait. Wait, wait, wait. I just called on Chair...Vice-Chair Kama, sorry, I called her Vice-Chair. And then I'll go to you and then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I thought she said she didn't have any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I haven't gotten to her yet, but you didn't have any questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, I did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sorry, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's what hard about being online. Okay.

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

April 14, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, now I'm going to --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to be clear, so Vice-Chair --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Kama, then Chair Lee --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair Lee --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- then Member Paltin --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- then Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then we'll go back to Member Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Member Johnson.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Got to remember that now. Okay. So, thank you for being here, Department and...and Ms. Milner. So...okay. So, real quick, first question. It was my understanding that when the Kahului Transit Center opened, that the Department was going to implement a new route system that would provide higher peak hour frequency. There doesn't appear to be any recognition of that commitment to the community in FY '26 Budget. When will the new route system be implemented? And I'm on page 787 of the Public Transit Program Fixed Route Service, Program Budget.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Kama. So, we...we did add not necessarily higher peak hour frequency for our...our transit system, but we did add later hours of service on a few routes that allows people to travel or to ride the transit system a little bit longer into the evening. So, we added later hours of service on the Kihei Islander and Kihei Villager routes when going back to the Kahului Transit Center. So, that...that also allows...allows a later departure time from Kahului to Lahaina as well as to...from Kahului to Kihei.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, what does that look like in terms of...

MR. TAKAMORI: So, in the past, if you...if you lived in West Maui or South Maui and you're doing business or recreation in Central Maui, you had to get on the bus by 7:30 in the evening to head back home. You can actually leave an hour later to get back home. So, a lot of people used to say 7:30 was very early to get...to...to leave Central to head back to West or South Maui. So, we...we did implement later hours of service.

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

April 14, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, what is your Kula route like? Kula route.

MR. TAKAMORI: Our Kula route.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Do you have buses to Kula?

MR. TAKAMORI: We do. So, the Kula...the Kula Islander and Waihe'e Villager route work together --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- so you send the bus from Kahului Transit Center out to Kula back to Kahului Transit Center, and then it then performs out to Waihe'e and then back to Kahului. So, that's...it's...that...that route isn't too frequent. I think basically, if you don't...if miss the Waihe'e bus route or bus time, you actually have to wait three hours until the next bus comes. So, it's very infrequent, but we're looking at implementing microtransit in place of --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- in place of that to allow riders a greater service area, I suppose, because right now, you have to walk to the fixed route to catch the bus, versus with microtransit, if you live in the Kula area or if you live in the Waihe'e area, of course, we'll draw, like, a service area. But if you live within the area, the bus can actually come up...up your residential street, so we are procuring . . .(timer sounds). . . smaller vans to potentially provide that service.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: So, that's in the plans right now.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, great. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Now, Chair Lee, your turn.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, she's on mute.

MR. TAKAMORI: I think...I think you're muted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we can't hear you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What percent of your funding comes from the Highway Fund?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Lee. As of right now, Fiscal Year '26 proposed, 12.5 percent of our funding will come out of the Highway Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And that equates to how much money?

MR. TAKAMORI: DOT...DOT Highway Funds we're requesting 24 million...approximately \$24 million out of the Highway Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: \$24 million. Okay. So, because the Highway Fund was essentially set up for highways, do you have grant-writing capabilities? Do you try to apply for funding elsewhere besides the Highway Fund?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the...for the question, Councilmember Lee. We...we don't have a dedicated grant writer in our Department, but we do have grant specialists, which we are going to be...we are waiting to hear back from DPS. But I...I am being told that we're very close to being able to recruit for our open position for the grants...was it Grant Specialist?

MS. YOGI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Yeah, I think that's a good idea, Director, because although we have a nutcase for our president right now, I think that's going to change. And over time, things will get back to normal. And that...that the grants writing will be a very integral part of trying to bring in new funding from the Federal level and the State level, so...and possibly even private funding. So, I'm glad that you're moving in that direction. Thank you. I have no more questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I was wondering to your response to question 22 about the advertising. Were you working with a Councilmember to introduce Code for the fixed bus route advertising? Like did you want to just hand over Corp. Counsel's stuff and then us write it? Or were you guys going to write a bill and submit it through Chair Lee?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Paltin. We...we're...we're still working with Corp. Counsel, but we will most likely forward that on to Councilmember Lee once it's concluded, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: When it's already drafted?

MR. TAKAMORI: When it's drafted, yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Like do you have a timeline on that? Because that could be potential income from advertising.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: I will make it a point that within the next fiscal year, we will have something sent down --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- for discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and do you have any estimate of how much the revenue could be? Is it like manini, or is it substantial?

MR. TAKAMORI: I think Diane may be able to answer this if I don't answer it correctly. But I believe when we actually were...when we actually did procure services for advertising, I believe in one fiscal year, we made up to...was it like around 50,000? Am I overstating that?

MS. YOGI: Yeah, it was approximately 50,000, but that contractor had a hard time meeting the requirements of that contract.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you expect it to just be one contractor, or would there be multiple advertising, or it's one contractor doing multiple advertising?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah, so thank you for the question. Typically how we have it set up is...so there's different ways. When we were...when we...because it was first new to us, we worked with Purchasing, and we did it as a concession. So, as a concession, I think that's the reason why we made around 50,000, was that we basically said, hey, we have all of these fixed-route buses you can go and advertise on. We know that we have to charge at least, you know, the...what the rates and fees state. But that means that when the concession person that won basically said, okay, I'm going to guarantee you let's say \$2,000 a month for all of your buses, and then I will charge a particular rate to go and advertise on your buses. I think what happened was that, based on the person reaching out trying to sell the spots, they...I guess he didn't anticipate it being very difficult to do so. I think people are more willing to advertise on the outside of our buses, but not...not so much on the inside. So, in the end, he basically requested that we...we cancel the contract because he was . . .(timer sounds). . . losing money at that point.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Shoot, that went by fast.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Round two.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll come around next time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Next, we have Member Johnson again, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Just a couple follow-ups, and you know, the...I appreciate your response to the bus routes along places to eat, you know, food. It was really...you had a good response to it, but I'm wondering, is there a map or other

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

April 14, 2025

chart that illustrates the overlap of routes and food access points? Because you know, it might be good for the riders to know this stop has a grocery store or two grocery stores. You know like that's...I think a map would really help the riders. Is that something you guys would be interested in doing?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Johnson. I...I believe that we can work with Department of Ag as well as GIS to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- come up with a map.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Then you know, in regards to some of our other Councilmember questions about parking, you...the Parking Maui said that there's certain districts and parks that you'll be focusing on. Are you ranking them by priority, by use, by...can you...and do you have the ranking? Do you know that Pā'ia is next, and after Pā'ia, it becomes this area, and you know, that kind of thing?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question. With regards to the expansion of the Park Maui Program, we're still sort of moving forward as what it was anticipated to be. So, before the wildfires, there...there was an anticipation of expanding into South Maui first, and then followed by West Maui. We want to...what we're trying to do is we're trying to just ensure when we do expand outside of Wailuku Town, we expand into a small pilot area. So, that's still --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- under consideration of like Kama'ole I, II, and III area.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. TAKAMORI: And...and once we kind of work out any bugs, then it gives us the ability to expand. So, we would be reaching out to Councilmembers to see if there's any...any areas that you've heard of that we should consider for possible...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's a very hot topic in our districts, so I'm sure you understand. So, for the Parks Maui, you broke down the revenue for permits for Park Maui. Is there a revenue amount available from daily rates, the non-permit holders? In the future, it would be possible to...would it be possible to collect data on non-resident revenue? We're really trying to focus out, are they tourist parking here? Are they locals parking here? So, you want to respond to that?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes, thank you for that. We...moving forward, we can meet the request with our contractor. I guess as of right now, with the type of machines that we have in the parking garage, if you are a resident, you basically have to manually show the attendant that you have a...a Hawai'i State ID to get...to get the two...or the two hours waived. So,

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

April 14, 2025

it's a very manual process right now, but . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we can set it up, moving forward, that they can better collect that data.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that. My time's up. One last question, if it's just...it's really if you're interested in this. You know, the...when you get on the bus, it's usually \$5, or \$4, right? But if you don't have change, the bus driver doesn't have change, so you're paying 5, if all you got is a \$5 bill. If I transfer, I got to pay another \$5 if I only have \$5 bills, right? So, basically, the jank is, is that can we do tap-to-pay? Can we...is that something you're interested in doing, tap-to-pay?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for...thank you for the question, Councilmember Johnson. So, two things. If...if you get on the bus, you can buy a \$4 daily pass. So, if you pay --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- \$5, we say thank you, but...but you can get a \$4 daily pass, and that involves all transfers for the entire day.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, good to know.

MR. TAKAMORI: With regards to the tap pay, we are in communication with...so there's been discussions to do a Statewide HOLO card system. So, if you travel to O'ahu or to the other neighbor islands, you can get the HOLO card system, and you can pay on each island. So, we are under...we are very open to going to electronic fares. We...because there's been discussions of us trying to do a Statewide HOLO card program...I mean, we can...we'll still be able to charge what is set in our rates and fees. It's just the HOLO card is where you would store your credit or your money on it, and then you tap as you go, right? So --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- we'll still...there wouldn't be any changes, really, in terms of how we handle rates and fees. The system would still recognize if you come on Maui and you use our service, we have our own rates and fees, but you would use the same program, I guess. So, we...we...we want to move forward with something like that. We're in --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- discussion with City and County, but they're the ones that hold the cards right now in terms of us being able to move forward. I think they're going to be procuring a consultant to help see how we can expand that to the neighbor islands. So, we are open to it. We are considering it, but we're...we didn't want to implement something if we were going to move towards --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- that State...Statewide program.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks for your response and the update. I didn't know that you're working with City and State or City of Honolulu. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, before I continue on with this round of questions, do you want to take a break? Yeah. And then we'll...we'll continue. So, I'm going to...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm leaving to the airport for a South Maui hearing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to...you...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I'm not going to be back when you reconvene.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you want to --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- ask questions now?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because you're next. You want to ask questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, yes. Okay. Mahalo. Okay. Really quickly for the ferry. Okay. Until staff is hired, who will serve as a point person spearheading the program? Because it was former deputy. Is it the current Deputy?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. So...so Kauanoe, he...he's still very interested in supporting...supporting this. So, I think we'll still be able to get knowledge from him and...and...and kind of bring him into

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

April 14, 2025

some of our meetings. But I think what's going to happen is that our Program Specialist who's handling Park Maui, would be kind of helping move things forward for the ferry part until we bring in a ferry program...or to fill the Program Specialist that would handle the ferry part. But I think my Deputy and myself would still be involved in it. So, I think we still have a pretty good team to...to kind of work through it, as long as, you know, we know that we're going to be moving forward with getting somebody to come on to help with the ferry portion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then I did find the three expansion positions under the General Fund Admin Program, Program Specialist III, Accountant III, Admin Assistant II, and it...it doesn't specifically state ferry operations. And I...and I support that because, you know, it's still uncertain, and it's just to support new projects. So, mahalo for directing me to that. And then my last question is regarding the fare-free tickets. So, it's...it's now a dollar for those transit fees? Was that the...the change? I was trying to look for it when we put that in...when Member Johnson spearheaded putting that in.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. So...so, the fare-free program is...is fare-free. So, if you are...if you are a student, a senior, persons with disabilities, I guess income-verified, and you apply through...there's an application process, and you're approved, then you can actually just board the bus, the fixed-route bus for free. Really, again, if you are a senior, 55 and older, or a student 24 years and younger, you don't need to...to apply for the program. You just show your age-verified ID to just get on the bus. But if not, then if you're applying as a persons with disability or income-eligible, then you . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . you would get an ID card issued by MEO, and then you can ride the fixed-route buses for free.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's wonderful. Mahalo. And then the revenue, the impact to revenue was as expected, because there was an uncertainty when we were initially establishing that program?

MR. TAKAMORI: There...there...yes, thank you for your question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It wasn't going to be much, was the point.

MR. TAKAMORI: The...I want to say that...look, I have all these notes, and I can't find my notes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's okay. We can...we can...we can have a recess, and then if you want to provide that information when we get back so that, you know, I don't want to fluster you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we'll . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then I'll be monitoring online. I'll just have my video off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, now I'm going to take a recess. We'll come back at 11:00. Is that all right? Okay. . . . *(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:50 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:04 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 11:04. So, to continue on is going to be Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins may have a question now, although she said not, Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, my...my question for the Director, the microtransit, what's some...what's the timeline for that, and what are some of the...briefly, some of the obstacles, challenges?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Cook. So, with regards to microtransit, we are talking to a consultant on an implementation plan, and so we're going to work through what that would look like. We acknowledge that we're going to have public or community meetings to also talk about microtransit as well. So, we know public outreach is going to need to happen. We also know that this will affect MEO because it would...it would require additional drivers to be available for this service. We are procuring...we are out to bid right now to procure microtransit vans. Bid closing or bid opening is more toward, I think, in a week or so towards the ending of this month. And then, of course, the vehicle has to get built and shipped over to us. So, we're hoping to have something ready maybe towards the ending of next fiscal year or by the beginning of...of the next. Not...was it Fiscal Year '27, beginning of Fiscal Year '27?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thanks. I think that that is a winner. I mean, I see the really large buses and the challenges on our highways and the way that our neighborhoods are built. And some of my neighbors that ride the bus regularly, they walk like two or three blocks to get it, and they'd probably pay more to get it. So, I don't know, maybe we need to tell...advertise in the schools that there's CDL driver jobs available, and they pay 27 bucks or whatever an hour to sort of front load, trying to...because that seems to be one of the big challenges. My other...I've been...my other thing is extended hours for hotel workers. Like I forget, both the unions and people who work at the hotels have reached out about that, that they would use the bus more often if they had that late-night transit options for the late shift. And just kind of brainstorming, I didn't know if the Department has the capacity or the willingness to contract with either the unions or hotels on a special late-night run, because then you would almost like guarantee your ridership to make it economically viable.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the, I guess, comments, Councilmember Cook. I guess with regards to . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . just for clarification then, when you say late-night service, are you...do you believe that it's...it's picking up people and taking them to work in the evenings and then picking them up from work and taking them back to, let's say, like a commuter parking lot? Are you saying like the hours would be, because their hours of work would be like from 9:00 p.m. to like 5:00 a.m. or something like that? Or are you thinking it's more like afternoon and then pick up in the evening to go back to their cars? Like do you know what time frame we're looking at?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My understanding is basically like the three shifts that they have that they're working, and so it's really...that's why my suggestion is like work with ILWU who would be one resource to basically would have kind of bulk information. But what I've gotten is it's challenging for them to be able to plan on riding the bus to and from work, and it just struck me as that's...because ridership, how many people are on the bus and how feasible it is to do it, so if you had...had sort of front end loaded, this is the demand, and...and somebody made a commitment to it, but that's just the interest. I don't know the hours because I don't work hotel, but I know that they have three shifts, and that was what they're trying to accomplish is being able to provide ridership for those times. Thank you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the clarification. I think...I think that is something that my team can, I guess, get more information on to see what...what that looks like and what the demand would be. We know that...that adding any later night service would...would be an additional cost to the contract in terms of revenue hours that we would provide the service for, but also, I guess, depending on what the hours of operation for the drivers will be, that that would also have to figure out in terms of what their...and maybe that's...maybe that's just more of a contractor problem. They'll have to figure out their availability for drivers at those later hours of...of service time.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I acknowledge that's the big challenge is getting the people, the workers, avail...willing and able to provide that. You know my advocacy to keep the dumps open on the weekend, it's the same, similar kind of deal. It's like you might have the demand, but if you don't have the ability to provide the personnel, then it doesn't work. Thank you very much for your service. I don't have any other questions, Chair.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member U'u-Hodgins. You don't? Okay. Member Sinenci, do you have a question for this round?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No questions, Chair. Thank you, Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Kama, Lee, Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I'm looking at the project CBS-8917. It's the Vevau Street improvements, and it's described as roadway improvements to improve the

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

April 14, 2025

bus flow on Vevau Street by promoting better parking management. So, the funds program for FY 2026 is for \$200,000, and it is appropriated for another phase. So, when will the improvements be designed, or does the other phase also include public engagement, especially reaching out to the residents who rely on the existing street parking on Vevau Street?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Kama. So, yeah, on page 1,008 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- under CIP Program --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- CBS-8917 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- the other under phase description other, is actually planning and design.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: So, planning and design that would look at that area in terms of what improvements that we plan to do, but we would also include public engagement at the same time. So, that would be for Fiscal Year 2026. Allocation request, 200,000.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right, so --

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- that's for 2026.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes, and then...and then in the following...in the following fiscal year, then once we go through planning and design, and...and...and I guess going through permitting, then we anticipate being able to do construction in Fiscal Year '27. And that would be our next request for construction in Fiscal Year '27.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, do you...do you do public engagement from planning, design, all the way to construction, or do you do it sometime after that?

MR. TAKAMORI: I think...I think if...if provided the \$200,000, we would be doing public engagement within this...within the new upcoming fiscal year.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah.

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

April 14, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. So, how do you...how are you going to...how do you...how do you engage the public, how do you inform the public that this is going to be happening, or come to the table, or come to my office, or whatever it is?

MR. TAKAMORI: So, I think there's... I think there's a few ways that we...we can do that. So, with regards to the planning and design portion, I think depending on the consultants we have, that could also prompt public engagement. We also did fill our Planner V position, so we also have a Planner V within Transportation now, and so that...that individual will be able to support that effort. So, I think there's multiple ways of doing engagement, but we have...we have a new person, so --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Let them do it.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- he is aware of...of the project and what we're looking at trying to do. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Perfect timing. Look at that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I had a couple questions just because I'm interested to find out the answer. The air ambulance only has a few transportations to O'ahu, and some of them are from Maui Memorial Medical Center. Is it possible, like, if the AMR says we don't have that kind of treatment at MMMC, that they can transport directly from the field to an O'ahu hospital? Or do they have to stop at our hospital first?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Paltin. So, I believe that....I'm not sure what the...the decision factor is, but you are correct. There are instances where an individual is flown from Maui directly over to O'ahu, or even from --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Molokai.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- Molokai directly over to O'ahu. So, I think at that time, somebody's communicating, saying this is what we have, and then it became...if it's a availability issue, then they get transported based on, I guess, their needs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like maybe they got to get more stabilized or something. Is it like a regular ambulance type of thing where they get billed for that bumbye?

MR. TAKAMORI: I...I think we would have to ask...ask that question specifically. I'm not quite sure. We don't see how things are billed. We...we provide our grant, I guess, our grant

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

April 14, 2025

allocation to participate in the program that the State is, I guess, doing...I guess...yeah, we don't actually...yeah, we don't actually get to see what the billing looks like.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: Sorry for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, you know when you were saying about working out the kinks for the beach parking, in my district, there is pay parking at D.T. Fleming, now the back parking lot, as well as West Maui's Oneloa, separate from South Maui's Oneloa, and I...it was so nice because I got complaints from visitors, and I was like, oh, that's not us. You got to talk to the Ritz-Carlton or Maui Land & Pine. But one of the kinks that I would recommend is if there's any place people could make their own parking, like how Member U'u-Hodgins was saying, you're going to need to block that off with rocks or something, because people will fit themselves in there, and that was an after the fact for us. And then, I...I'm not...I heard Mr. Nava's testimony, but I thought that there were buses from, like, War Memorial out to the hotels. I don't know if there's the three shifts, but if you do look into that, that would be nice to get in...back the information, because I remember a former politician used to bring coffee and donuts . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . to those buses, like during campaign season.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for...thank you for the question, Councilmember Paltin. So, we do have the commuter service. I think out of seven...out of seven morning bus runs...out of seven runs for the commuter service daily, I believe six of them actually pass through War Memorial Stadium before heading out. I think one goes to South Maui, and then the rest goes out to West Maui. So...so...so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, those are only morning, you don't have...

MR. TAKAMORI: We do have a return in the afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. TAKAMORI: So, seven...seven runs daily, I guess morning and afternoon, but six of those routes provide service out to the West Side.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But not for afternoon shifts, because it goes over and then it comes back in the morning, and then when they pau hana, but not...

MR. TAKAMORI: So, just the...just that one morning shift, so essentially if you work between 8:00 and 5:00, those are the...those are the buses that you're able to take. We...I guess we don't have a second and a third shift service.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I think it was something like 1:00 to 9:00, 2:00 to 10:00, and 3:00 to 11:00, they were saying. Okay. Is it okay to put that in writing about the air ambulance billing, if we can find out? Like, I mean, because we pay a portion, the State pays a portion, and then is it free to folks traveling by air ambulance?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah, we can...we can make that...we can make that ask to the State Department of Health.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah, because I...I have AFLAC, so if I ride in the ambulance, then they pay me to pay the ambulance, but not everybody has that.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have...I just wanted to ask you, Director, if you wanted to say any more about the rates and fees, because our time got cut off. Because decisions will go through approval, but if you have anything to share with us.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Sugimura. So, with regards...one thing I did want to add is I know that you made a comment, or a Councilmember kind of made a comment earlier about that the Wailuku Parking Garage event permit is...is only \$50, so we did have a discussion internally within the Administration, and...and we look at it as, yeah, it's \$50, we believe that it's...that's really, really, really reasonable. But we're looking at it as that we're providing a service to the community, so usually the people that would come in for a special events permit to use a parking garage would be doing something as a community event. So, we figured that we limit it to special events hosted by nonprofit agencies. So, at no point do we have it open for, like, a for-profit or commercial entities, we figured as of right now, we just wanted to limit it to people that are doing more of a community service type event.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: And that's why we have it listed as...as such.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. That's First Friday. I think they use Festivals of Aloha, yeah? Okay. And none of the others, and it talks about your beach fees, you're fine, you explained it already.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're good with that. All right. So, Members, I'm trying to give you lunch break from 11:30 and then come back at 1:00. I already excused Public Works. So, they were sitting there waiting for their turn, so I said, you know, why don't you just...we'll just come back after lunch. So, anybody have any more questions for Department of Transportation? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just...I...I know at this time, our Federal funds look okay, but you know, sometimes we don't know what's going to happen until 45 minutes before

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

April 14, 2025

with the Federal Government nowadays. And if that were to happen, what would be the effect? Like in 45 minutes, they say, oh, sorry, no more money for you. Do we have a backup plan?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Paltin. So, I believe that...I believe that the funds that would be more in jeopardy would be funds that are more discretionary asks. So, as long as...as long as they, in terms of the Federal budget, they don't touch any, like, formula funds to any of...any, I guess, of their formula funds to the County for any program, really, even not transportation-related, I...I...I believe that those should potentially be safe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you don't think that they could just touch formula funds in blue or red states, like, because it seems a little bit, that's what they're doing with the grant funds?

MR. TAKAMORI: So, thank you. I guess anything could be possible, and I guess that's very concerning. I...I know that I've had conversations with Debbie Cabebe of MEO, and...and her challenges with regards to, I guess, her...her funding for, like, Head Start and stuff, right? So, I guess all I can say is that we...we are...we...we work closely with our Washington, D.C. liaison, and he kind of keeps us informed of what's going on. And then he's aware of our different projects that we're trying to also get funded, and I guess, with regards to who he's talking to or keeping informed with, he kind of tells us what he's thinking and how best to kind of move forward with certain things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, like, when you say not the formula funds, it's more like the RAISE grant we got for the relocation of the West Maui...the highway and the bike greenway grant that we just got? Like, those are the ones that are in jeopardy?

MR. TAKAMORI: As long as...as long as if...my understanding is as long as you are in grant, so you've already signed saying like, okay, FDA or FHWA is going to give these funds, and you're in grant, then I believe that you're fine. They haven't touched anything like that. It's the ones that you got awarded, but you haven't actually gone into grant with them. If...if it doesn't meet their criteria, then we're being told again to phrase it in a way that still meets their criteria. So, as an example, if you were to say, hey, you got a million dollars to buy electric buses, right? That might have been a higher priority in the previous administration, but maybe not so much in the new administration. So, what we're being told is...is . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . as an example, phrase it in a way that says, hey, we're...we're looking at...at procuring these buses because we want to bring down the cost of maintenance, right? And kind of throw it...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's how it's said.

MR. TAKAMORI: Phrase it that way versus saying, because of climate change, we want to move towards electric buses.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, like if you're trying to build the highway so it doesn't get taken over by the ocean, you're just trying to make a safer route?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: I guess a safer route, or it promotes the ability for businesses to be able to sell their products so residents and visitors still can get their goods.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And not get cut off.

MR. TAKAMORI: And not get cut off, or something. I mean, I guess that's what it's coming down to is how do you phrase it in a way that...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Nobody can control FU.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In more ways than one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Members, anybody else have a last question? If not, I'm going to...I see no...no further hands. All right.

MR. TAKAMORI: Oh, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...yes? You have comments?

MR. TAKAMORI: I guess just to kind of close the...the loop --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- on Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's question. The...in Fiscal Year 2024, the Highway Fund reduction in terms of the fares, because of the fare-free program, it...it reduced by \$213,600.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: And then...and then, just as another tidbit with regards to the fare-free program, in...in a...I guess if you're looking at it on a monthly average, 61 percent of our boardings on our fixed route buses are fare-free program eligible people. 61 percent use the service.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Very good.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. TAKAMORI: That's it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's good.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do you have any other last comments you want to make?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, she heard you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Oh, she's on. Okay. Great. Yeah. No, that...that's it. I just wanted to --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- make sure that we answered all the questions that you guys have. And if not, then put it in writing, and then we can get you those answers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I'm going to close with this. Talking about the micro, you know, system, micro bus system, Kula has a lot of buses that look pretty empty. So, whatever plans you have, please let me know, and then we can just let the community know. And I think...I think a lot of taxpayers look at that and go, oh, look at that waste money. And I've gotten emails about that, although, you know, there's a need for transportation. So, just want to close with that. All right. So, thank you very much, Department of Transportation. Appreciate your hard work, you and Diane. And I'm going to take a lunch recess. This is now 11:27. And when we come back...you want to come back at 1:00 for Public Works? Because we...we're going to go off to South Maui for that...for the residency area meeting. All right. So, this meeting is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 11:27 a.m.

RECONVENE: 1:05 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:05 p.m., and we have with us the Department of Public Works. Thank you very much, Director Molina. And before you start, can you introduce your team, and then the Members will ask questions, three minutes per round, couple rounds, and then we'll just see where we go. Go ahead.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. So, to my left, we have Deputy Director Paul Barany. Next to him, we have our newly hired Highways Division Chief, Mike Kinores, who's replacing John Smith. And to his left, we have Wade Shimabukuro, our DSA

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

April 14, 2025

Administrator. Also in the gallery, we have our Highway Superintendent, Gary Ambrose, here to help support Mike. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, at this time, then, I'd like to take questions from Member Cook to start. Three minutes. Then go to...I don't see Rawlins-Fernandez yet back. Then we'll go to Johnson, Paltin, Lee, Kama, Sinenci, U'u-Hodgins. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'm rebooting up my screen as we talk, but I'm here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I want to thank all of you . . .*(audio feedback)*. . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's a lot of thanks-yous...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That was me. I want to thank all of you for coming today and also for the work that you do. I recognize the challenges that our community has been under for the...thanks, Nohe. The challenges our community's been under. Being the representative from South Maui, I...I especially appreciate the rapid response after this last flooding. It was...yeah, it was just you guys pounded it out, got it done. And hopefully we can work on, with NRCS and the ranches, et cetera, to work further up the mountain and mitigate some of that in the future, but that's a long-term plan. So, thinking about flooding and whatnot, in the Engineering Program for item 2, is like conduct assessment of pavement conditions, perform bridge inspections, like that. Is there a plan? Is there a current plan for the Kūlanihāko'i temporary bridge to replace that, and then also the Waiakoa Bridge?

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Member Cook. Yeah, so for Waiakoa, we do have detailed engineering studies underway to better understand what is the dynamic of flooding there, because it's not entirely clear how water's moving once it crosses the highway. We also are planning, or we're evaluating extension of Kenolio Road to North Kihei to serve as an alternate for the Waiakoa Bridge, because that bridge presents many challenges in terms of trying to replace it. And so, that's the plan for Waiakoa currently. For Kūlanihāko'i, our big remedy is going to be North-South Collector Road, getting that bridge built so that we have that alternate route over the stream while we assess options for the South Kihei Road Bridge, which, you know, depending on the extensive nature of it, could include simply abandoning that bridge and just relying on the North-South Collector in the future as that alternate route to the highway. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks. External factors that are affecting your doing the job is like increased regulations and cost for maintenance and activities. Does the Administration have communication...any communication with the State as far as getting some of the regulatory elements in alignment? Because my understanding is some of the challenges the County has in executing Public Works projects is State

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

April 14, 2025

regulations that you're in the same...you're delayed, SHPD, Department of Health. Is there any progress in that?

MR. MOLINA: I would say yes. You know, the...like, in specific to SHPD, having the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources and the County Archeologist has been tremendous in helping facilitate that working relationship there. You know, our partners at State DOT are very open to working with us as well, and it's just really us kind of advocating for ourselves with these agencies to help move things along and get priority attention for our projects when the need arises.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is there any funding that's needed for additional funding for the North-South Collector Road for some of the modifications since the original...original design?

MR. MOLINA: Not in this current budget. We are fully funded to get...to move forward with our environmental and our permitting . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . requirement for this first phase...or for the...for the entirety of the project, and we have enough money to get the designs finalized for the first phase of the build-out, and then we'll be seeking additional funding to finalize phase two design and construction.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair. That's all for my first round. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. All right. So, now we'll go to...Member Rawlins-Fernandez is not here yet. Johnson, Paltin, Chair Lee, then Member Kama, Sinenci, then U'u-Hodgins. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And good morning...good afternoon, everybody. Thank you, guys. I know you're super busy with so much things on your plate. Thank you for joining us. This is going to be a common question I have with a lot of the departments on retaining and developing and recruiting your workforce. Can you give us some plans that you have, workforce...you know, like tuition reimbursement, you know, the....doing the higher steps? Is there anything that you guys are considering, and if so, what are you doing?

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Member Johnson. Yeah, so one of the things you'll see in an expansion request is to support the cost of our physical examinations that our UPW workers have to take when they hire. And so, before you can get hired, they have to go through a pretty extensive physical evaluation costing several hundred dollars. And so, we recognize that can be a big task or a big cost for people at that level, that entry-level work. So, one of the incentives is to look at providing that cost reimbursement provided they are able to complete a year of service with us to help offset that cost there.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, right now, they pay to get a physical?

MR. MOLINA: Correct.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And it's about \$500?

MR. MOLINA: It's about 8? Yeah, \$800. It's a very extensive physical because of the hazards that our Staff are exposed to.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure. And then if we...so right now, we don't reimburse them, but if we do plan to reimburse them, the timeline you said was kind of long, right, about a year?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, because we want to make sure these guys stick around --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. MOLINA: -- so it's over that first year period to obtain that full reimbursement.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What an elaborate plan, they get a free physical. Okay. All right. Well, that...that's one thing. Is there anything else that you guys are considering?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I mean, the investment in just training opportunities, both just for exposure and how we do our work, but also --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: -- supervisory training.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: Like I mentioned in my opening comments, the need for supervisors is greater than ever. And encouraging and, you know, equipping our...our people to be ready to take those supervisory roles is...is very critical, and so we're putting more funding toward those training.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's every department has had different, you know, different needs, but also different ways they're solving this issue. How is your relationship with the Personnel Department? I know...I mean, is it...is it helping, is it hindering, is it fast, are you waiting for...there was one position that was a six-month position, and it didn't...it took them like eight months to even fill it, and that doesn't make any sense to me.

MR. MOLINA: There's various services we rely on them, and maybe I'll just say it can be tough.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Is...is there anything here in this body that we can do? Is there...you know, I know unions get involved, it's a mess, but is there anything that, like the Code or...I'm trying to find something that we can do to help you, you know, besides what some of the things...but I'd like to hear what you would suggest that maybe we can help with.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I guess I'll have to be more detailed in this, but I mean, the gist of it is we do HR very uniquely here at the County, compared to most private companies.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. MOLINA: And it's a bit disjointed --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: -- and it's...it's challenging to get the understanding of our HR Department of our needs, and so that's where a lot of the conflicts arise.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, what's interesting to me is on Lānaʻi, we don't seem to have that problem, right? Correct me if I'm wrong, your Department seems to fill the positions . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . when they're available on Lānaʻi, right?

MR. MOLINA: I think the scale of it is a huge factor.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Explain that.

MR. MOLINA: It's not...we don't have a lot of movements, and it's not very involved, so the level of service is very minimal for DPS on Lānaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, if they got out of the way, you could hire a lot faster?

MR. MOLINA: You know, it's not just about the hiring process, it's even the position movements, really, which is what we struggle with, because a lot of our positions need to be updated to the current needs, and that's not a priority of DPS because...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'll follow up on that, because position movement sounds really like a deeper discussion.

MR. MOLINA: And that goes into why it's so long to get expansion positions created and filled, and that's where, you know, I feel we'd be better at hiring people if we had the positions that we need in place.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: In-house, you mean, right?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Hiring in-house is much faster than...

MR. MOLINA: Well, just having the more appropriate position to offer out there.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Thanks, Director. Thank you, Chair.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin, followed by Chair Lee. Is she online? Yeah, and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I was going to start somewhere else, but since we're on vacancies, I'll continue on that. I noticed that eight of your vacancies weren't on Personnel's vacancy list, and it was a good report card, because seven of those have been filled already, so that's yay. But then I did a deeper dive in comparing the vacancies to Personnel's list, and of those, 15 of them haven't had a requisition since we switched over from Workday, which was like April 1st, 2019. So, I was wondering if we could send in writing to DPS all the positions that are indicated have been vacant since January 1st, 1900, which of them are post...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hundred?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It was some kind of computer glitch of the ones that came over from the old system to Workday, if it wasn't requisitioned since April 1st, 2019, I guess it indicated that it's been vacant since January 1st, 1900. So, if we can send a request in writing to DPS, which of those that haven't been requisitioned since April 1st, 2019, are posted for open recruitment. Then I mean...because if it's not posted and it hasn't been requisitioned in the last six years, I wouldn't continue to fund it, you know what I mean? There was 15 of them, I can show you my list later, but that's just the in-writing one. And then when I spoke to them, they said the Business Administrator II position, and I...I also...we also received anonymous testimony that that really is only...they allow it for Fire and Chief, and so that was, I think, a Fiscal Year 2025 expansion position. Do you have plans to retitle that or request something else, like an AO or AA?

MR. MOLINA: So, that's one of the positions we've been fighting with DPS over, and one of those where they don't quite understand our need.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, it's going to stay Business Administra-. . .

MR. MOLINA: Yes, that's what we...we're seeking.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the Engineering Support Tech position, in the Budget Details, page 22-10, I don't think the position ID is accurate. It still has an X in front of it. If...if we could get the accurate position ID. And then are you TAing or TRing into any of these vacancies . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . or DM-89?

MR. MOLINA: We have two DM-89s, one in Engineering and one in DSA. And yeah, TA is a regular tool we use to help cover gaps in supervision and also provide training opportunities to up-and-coming staff.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, moving forward, Chair Lee. Okay. Chair Lee? Member Kama next.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. And thank you for coming, Department of Public Works. I'm asking questions on two things. South Maui, Director Molina. Several years ago, I put money in the budget to create a baseyard in South Maui, but instead, six or seven positions were created for and designated for South Maui. Are there any plans to create a baseyard in the near future for South Maui?

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Chair Lee. We have done a facility master planning effort looking at all our baseyards and our needs, and so we're...we're...we...we think we might have need for a satellite office out in Kihei, but we're also looking at a larger, consolidated yard in Central Maui that'll provide more Countywide support. So, yeah, that is in progress. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, the baseyard, that centralized baseyard, or facility, would that mean moving your baseyard to, let's say, Waikapū? The one on Kaohu Street.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, in part, we...we...we're striving to get some of that operation out of that neighborhood. I'm sure you've heard the...the neighbors' concerns. And so, ideally, if we can move some of that heavier operation out of there, that will alleviate those impacts we're seeing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And so, the main improvements to Wai'ale, is it from by Long's backwards to Waiko Road, or is it all the way to where that roundabout, the new roundabout is supposed to be?

MR. MOLINA: We have a couple different projects there. So, we just started looking at improvements from Waiko back towards Kuikahi, and then we have our large road extension project, which is to support Waikapū Country Town, which goes from Waiko out to Honoapi'ilani Highway.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, so you're not looking in the near future toward where the correctional facility is and the graveyard?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You're not doing a roundabout over there?

MR. MOLINA: We do have one planned, that's been difficult with some of the archeological concerns, and then we also have, in design right now, improvements for that area to get the sidewalks in all the way to the Ka'ahumanu Bridge.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Okay. But at some point, you're going to need to take it from, you know, the graveyard all the way down to the...past the bridge, because that's where all the...the traffic is...is piling up now, yeah? I'm sure you've seen that.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, so in --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: -- in conjunction...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You don't have plans for that?

MR. MOLINA: In conjunction to that, the other initiative is the Maui Lani Parkway extension to create that alternate connector road to try and alleviate all the...all the load on Wai'ale.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Okay. Well, thank you very much. I have no more questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And thanks for your work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, can you...just curiosity, this is a curious question. Just came across my mind, because we're talking about bridges. Who owns the Imi Kala Bridge?

MR. MOLINA: Currently, it's privately owned.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. That's what I thought. Okay. But here's my real question. So, for the Administration Program and key activity goals and measures, goal number 2, implement rules and regulations that maximize the effectiveness of the organization in delivering public services. There is an objective regarding pursuing amendments to address obsolete rules and regulations or to streamline the processes. The first success measure was the number of amendments to County ordinances or proposed State statute amendments pursued by the Department. The actual number from FY '24 is reported at three, and that value is projected for the current fiscal year and for the upcoming fiscal year. Is the Department on track to meet that value for this current fiscal year? And it's page 718 on the key activity goals and measures, Program Budget.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, so whenever we encounter challenges with our codes, either ambiguities or just old codes...there's a lot of old stuff --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: -- we enforce that's kind of not too sure. You know, we have very detailed discussions about what was needed to actually --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: -- amend those. And so, we do...you know, we have been working to try and improve upon those. And so, yeah, I would say yes, we still plan to bring forward legislation that'll help us with our operations.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And so, how long does that usually take for you guys to do that?

MR. MOLINA: It can take some time because depending on the depth that we try to do, so like one example is we have been struggling with kind of drainage way maintenance and the scope of that and how far we take it, how detailed it needs to be. It's very...it's very simple right now, the way it's written. And so, I kind of drag these guys along into the weeds with me when we talk about legislation to that extent. And so, yeah, we...we want to make sure we do a thorough job --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: -- understanding what we want to bring forward before we propose it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, I have another question. So, for our response to the 2023 wildfires, Public Works contracted with 4LEAF, right, to provide expedited building permit services. My understanding is that that experience has been a positive one and permits were being issued on an expedited fashion. So, what can we learn from that experience that can be applied to improving our standard building permit review process?

MR. MOLINA: Great question. Maybe I'll have Wade answer this one.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, let him. Go ahead. You're all so quiet on that table.

MR. SHIMABUKURO: Hi. Wade Shimabukuro, DSA Administrator. So, that...that's kind of a tricky question. I think what maybe people don't realize is the . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the permits for the rebuild --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, yes.

MR. SHIMABUKURO: -- is a lot simpler because the...all the infrastructure was currently built. So, essentially, you're putting back to what was, whereas once you start going forward, a lot of...a lot of other agencies, excluding DSA, has stuff to consider like water supply, the...the water service, sewer service, et cetera, et cetera. So, those are some of the things that is not...4LEAF is not tasked with. So, those are the...some of the things that makes it a little bit quicker for these permits to be reviewed.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, but is it possible to...to do?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, let me...Wade...he never hit the home run. I was trying to . . . *(inaudible)*. . . So, what we...what...what Wade and his team have been working on is we're going to extend 4LEAF services, at least for our permitting plan review within

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

April 14, 2025

our Public Works oversight to have them assist us with our regular permit log. And so, that process has already been started. And so, we're kind of ironing out the kinks.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: And slowly, we're ramping up on...on their services for us for the regular permits. But as, you know, Administrator said --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: -- it...it only covers our side right now. And the other review agencies need to be looking at how they can improve their side of the review. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, when the other review agencies review the permit, how long do each of them take? I mean, is there a process that says it goes from you and then the next guy gets 20 days and the next guy gets 20? So, is there something like that?

MR. MOLINA: They...they all go concurrently. But like Wade mentioned, what gets complicated for them is these are new reviews. And so, sometimes they don't have the awareness of, like, your property, for example, and they got to do a lot of research. And then they often encounter issues that are larger than just your...your property that have to get worked through. And so, that's what kind of drags out that process for them. Where like he said, in Lahaina, everyone had a permit already, everyone had a house already, so putting back wasn't that big of an issue.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Director Molina and Public Works Department. And again, mahalo for the previous paving projects out in East Maui, including Kaupō and Maka'alaē. We...we keep getting a lot of calls and appreciation at our East Maui Office. But that said, it looks like you have in your CIP seven paving projects or in-house resurfacing projects. And I understand that our next one in Hāna would be Uakea Road in Hāna Town. Is Uakea part of the resurfacing or district resurfacing?

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Yeah, it would fall under that program.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So, we can expect it sometime this fiscal year?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, we do plan to try and bid out before the end of 2025. And so, hopefully construction in 2026.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that update. And then I know Chair Lee keeps trying to sell the bridge down in Nāhiku. I don't know if we...we...we own it. But...and...and I do see for your CIPs, you do have some...some bridge projects. But my general question to the Department was if...and...and these are old government roads, and we...we oftentimes get calls from, you know, from old government roads...residents on old government roads. So, does the County address some of these? Or we would have to go out to maybe Federal funding with some Federal agencies to get some of these bridges up to Code?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Member Sinenci. So, specific to Nāhiku, that one is definitely a challenging one. Our engineers have looked at it, and we're estimating it's about 2 to \$3 million to rehabilitate that bridge. The challenge for us is we have bridges on Hāna Highway that need our attention more...more critical, and the amount of traffic they carry, is definitely more paramount for us to attack those. So, these old government road bridges are harder to prioritize because of that competing safety concern with our larger volume roadways. So...but we have...we have looked at it fairly extensively. The land is a...is a particular challenge there because it's...nobody's really claiming ownership of it, and it's...we...we don't quite know if it's really an old government road or not. We think it's...was previously built by EMI. . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right, I think it's A&B, under the East Maui District. So...but we can...real quick, Chair, but you were talking about Kahawaiokapia Bridge that has precedence over these old government road bridges, yeah?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, that among others.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you guys for being with us today. I appreciate your guys' quick response to my office as we email you guys pretty often with questions and complaints from Makawao-Pā'ia-Ha'ikū area, so thank you so much for being very responsive. Another one of the complaints, though, is the Makawao parking lot in Pā'ia...I mean, sorry, the Makawao parking lot behind, like, the old Stopwatch. I don't know why I said Pā'ia. There's some nefarious activities going on back there, and that's causing concerns for the older residents and residents that live around that area. What can we do to help shore up the security in that area? Can we put up some signs? Can we put up some gates? We did let MPD know, and unsurprisingly, they said they'll try, but they have all these vacancies, but what can we do, and what can I put in my budget priorities for this year to make it safer back there?

MR. MOLINA: We support that going to Park Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Good to know, you know, just Park Maui everywhere.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: But yeah, I mean, so these have always been real passively operated parking lots, yeah, so like even the issue of gates now becomes hours, operating hours, and our Staff having to now --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: -- open and close gates.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: And so, that's where we kind of have this challenge of, like, yeah, it's been real low...low maintenance operations there, and now as we get into these issues of, like, security and all those needs, there's this question of, okay, so who should...who's in charge of these parking lots? And so, yeah, I think that's open for further discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Do you guys maintain that parking lot?

MR. MOLINA: We do the maintenance, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- yeah, like I said, like --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. MOLINA: -- we fix lights, we'll go pave, and...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But the gate would require opening and closing.

MR. MOLINA: The utilization of it, yeah, the management of it has not been handled by anybody, really.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: One of my little sticking points that's annoying me right now are the requirement for signs for any enforcement. I know it's not you, but I'm just saying it's annoying. I don't have to walk around with a shirt that says, please don't hit me for somebody to assault me to be illegal. That's not you, I'm just saying it's annoying that we have to pay for signs so people can follow the law just to ask them to follow. Like, here, here you go, please follow it, annoying. I see that you and...or rather, your Department and every other department is reinstating the Council cuts from salaries of last year. Did you guys use all of your funds? Do you have any potential Carryover/Savings in your Category A Account? Considering we just had Police over. Sorry --

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I mean...I mean --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- to put it on you, but...

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: -- just...just because of the size of our Department, we regularly have Carryover/Savings --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- in our A Account, through the --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- vacancies, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And you needed to reinstate the Council cuts from last year for you guys to make it next? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. MOLINA: We'd like to have that availability, but you know, given the constraints, you know, we're willing to work with Council to figure out what's appropriate.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, Director, Wai'ale Road Extension is, as you said in your opening comments, is one of the bigger projects that Public Works will undertake. And I noticed that in your funding stack, correct me if I'm wrong, but it looks like you're using, is it GE, stands for GET funds, 6 million?

MR. MOLINA: That's correct, Chair, and that's to help pay for some of the water and wastewater costs tied to the project.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there is a connection, but it's not listed in...in Bill 41 as one of the projects that will be funded with GE. That would be on page 57, 58, 59. Yeah, up to Hawaiian Home Lands. I don't see the 6 million here. Oh, is it 600,000 or 6 million? So, the funding stack, he answered my question is because of wastewater for the extension, Department?

MR. MOLINA: Chair, it's number 15 under the GET.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's number 15?

MR. MOLINA: Under...yeah, under the GET section of the Special Purpose Revenue.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, I'm...okay. Okay. Good. That's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . for wastewater. So, can you provide the status of this?

MR. MOLINA: Oh, yeah. Thank you, Chair. So, our environmental assessment is being finalized now, and so we expect that to come out in the next few months. Our next big milestone is getting through our PUC approval with Hawaiian Electric, because we need to move the high...high voltage transmission lines both on Waiko Road and

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

April 14, 2025

Honoapiʻilani Highway. Then there's a few land acquisition matters to resolve, and then from there, we do anticipate bidding out next summer. And we do have September 30, 2026 hard deadline to execute contract...construction contracts to preserve our RAISE grant funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. And of course, that happened so long ago, so there's no problem for our President to with...with...withdraw the funds or withhold it?

MR. MOLINA: There is this review occurring right now where the Feds are having to look at these grant programs to ensure they're consistent with the new administration's policies, so we are awaiting guidance from Federal Highways on how to proceed, so it is a bit uncertain at the moment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Oh, so there it is, even if the RAISE grant happened, what, two years ago?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, unfortunately, because we didn't get into contract yet, it didn't make the...the pass.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Oh, that's so important. So, under the Waiʻale Road, there's . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . \$57 million for Federal. Is that in there, the RAISE grant? It's accounted for already?

MR. MOLINA: Yes, it is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'll come back to it. Next, we're going to go back to Member Cook. And Member Cook --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- has to leave at --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- 2:00, so --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- perfect timing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Director, one of my issues with all...not issues, one of my concerns with all the departments has been CIP projects, County-funded, for...for County benefit, often on County properties, having issues with the permitting, and that's where a lot of it comes in, possibly the State Historic Preservation, et cetera. Is there...do you have a list, or is there potential legislation that could potentially update or amend codes to facilitate permitting of public projects? I've...I've heard, and you can correct me, it's like they're basically in the lineup and they treat it like anybody else. But I'd

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

April 14, 2025

like to be preferential without being prejudicial, because it's...things like parks, things like community centers, things like gyms that are County-funded, just seems like we're costing ourselves money. I don't want to...so, I don't want to break laws, I want to make new laws to enable you to do it.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Chair. And thank you, Member Cook. I would say that one's a tough one, because there is...you know, it's a buffet of permitting, and each one has its own unique concerns, priorities, circumstances, and so I don't know how to answer that question generally. I mentioned before, like SHPD has improved because we have that facilitator now in the County Archeologist, so that's been tremendous in helping us, help SHPD understand our priorities and ensure that what we're sending them is sufficient and, you know, a good submittal. Generally, Federal monies are difficult, particularly for us, because we have, for the case of the Fed-Aid program, we have two tiers of review, where DOT, as the State administrator, has their review, and then we also have Federal Highways review, and so we're often stuck just having to bear whatever comes out of that process. And I don't know if that one, there's a way to fix, and it's not really a permitting issue, it's just a funding authorization procedure to work through.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, it's really good to hear that SHPD has the potential to shifting and being not as big an obstacle as it's been in the past. Is there any other State departments, or is it mostly for us, then we can work? And I appreciate what you...I love what you said, it's a buffet, it's like it really is, and I...I understand that, it is a whole bunch of permits that add up to . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . you know, ability to perform.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I mean, I think it just really comes down to advocating for yourself, making those relationships with those agencies, and I mean, in large part, having empathy for the struggles they're going through, too, and you know, trying to make it easy for everybody to...to get our jobs done.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And...I know my time's up, Chair. And also working to submit really accurate, detailed drawings and specifications so that they're reviewable and approvable. I see Wade smiling. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, Member Cook. So, next we have Member Johnson, Paltin, Chair Lee, Kama, Sinenci, U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered. I just want to, you know, say let's work together. You know, I...you...you...yeah, certainly, pass...punt the ball, but we...you know, you guys have such a big Department, so much responsibility. I...I want...I want us to be able to have a really good working relationship so that all the...all the knots we can untie, and together I think it's a great way we can untie them, because when one...one branch of the government says this and the other says that, we know that's not a best way to use it. So, I'm just willing to look...look forward to working with you guys. Very big budget, hopefully you can get it all done. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Okay. So, for like the past six years, I've put over 100 grand every year for, like, things like speed bumps at Niheu Street, and I know Mr. Nip (*phonetic*) and Ms. Marzan are contacting me. And then, you know, so then people take their lives into their own hands and install their own speed bumps, like by the Lum Lung Boat Ramp, and then they get taken away. And then they get told, oh, tell your Councilmember to put money for speed bumps, and I'm like, well, what about the money I put in the last six years for the speed bumps that I never got? And then complaints on the wide with Lahaina Strong, like flashing lights by L&L on Honokōwai by Times Supermarket, because it's so dark over there. I'd still like those things, but I...I don't want to keep putting in money, because I feel like over the past six years, I've put enough money. So, I was wondering for CB-6067, if I could condition those pedestrian safety requests I've put for my district for the last six years? And...and, you know, when we used to have a crossing guard for King Kamehameha III Elementary, it was just across Front Street. Now they got to cross a whole highway, and there's no crossing guard, and it's kind of dangerous, you know, like they're small kids, elementary school kids. So, just wondering if...if that Safer Routes to School, I know it got discontinued, but we still need safer routes to school. Any updates?

MR. MOLINA: We have not lost track of your requests that you've prioritized for us. The wildfires did derail things a bit, where we more or less had to put a pause on a lot of stuff. But all of those are being tracked, and I can get you detailed updates on when some of those are coming in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'd be awesome, I can get them in writing.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next question is, do you folks do the permitting for new swimming pools?

MR. MOLINA: Yes, I believe they require building permits.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And say we wanted to do a moratorium on that in the Lahaina Aquifer sector, is that something that we could do?

MR. MOLINA: I would say it's probably more of a land use regulation --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- than a...than a Building Code regulation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, because we're not allowed new water for new housing, but somehow we're allowed new water for new swimming pools, private swimming pools? I don't...

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: So, I would defer to Water Supply on their service rules, and then, yes, also land use drives what you can do on your property. We just make sure what you're doing is built safely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the MAPPS, there's been some complaints that people cannot make corrections until each department responds or something. Is that something that you folks can fix, or how does that get addressed?

MR. MOLINA: We do not support making that change right now, because we think it's going to make the review much more harder.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. And then, you know the parking lot by where Maui Gym used to be, that was under DPW purview, in back over there, kind of by the back side of Fleetwood's, the Old Lahaina Store?

MR. MOLINA: Off Luakini?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think so, yeah.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The property owner . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . wanted to see if they can purchase it, and Deputy Wade said that you guys were okay with it, and she had thought that you had communicated something with them. Does this sound familiar at all?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I believe...I recall we were being asked if we had any objections, which we didn't, but I wasn't sure who was leading that effort.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if I give you their contact info? Because something about surveying or something?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, we can walk them through the process for them to ask for, you know, to...to get those lands from the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Cool. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, followed by Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Director Molina, how many vacancies do you...do you currently have in your Department? Roughly?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 60.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 60. Okay. So, have...are...are you making strides in this area, improvements since last year and the year before, with various kinds of, let's say, enticements with recruitment bonuses or retention bonuses or salary adjustments? Are...are you trying any of those, you know, strategies?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: We do offer a small recruitment incentive bonus for hard-to-fill positions. We have been lucky, I'll say, over the last few months in filling some of our vacancies, but we still struggle a lot. Like you know, the labor list, the last recruitment was...was very dismal, and so we don't know...or we're still looking and thinking through how we can try and attract more applicants for those kinds of positions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Do you think those challenges are the result of our civil service rules, or...or is it something that the Council can help you with?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I mean, in large part, it's the civil service rules and the collective bargaining process. Like, we...we don't have much of a role in that regard when it comes to engaging in that, and so we just end up with what we get.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, the...so there's no...there are no improvements that you can think of to work out with, let's say, DPS?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I'm not aware what...what they would offer. I know if we could offer, I mean, you know, things like bonuses or any sort of additional compensation, it would help attract more applicants. But yeah, short of...you know, changing the whole salary scale --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What...what do we...

MR. MOLINA: -- is its own endeavor.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. What do we start with? What do we offer at the bottom, the laborers? Per hour, how much do we pay?

MR. MOLINA: 52,000 per year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, that's not chicken feed, and we still can't find people.

MR. MOLINA: Relative to private construction.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's interesting.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, it's kind of chicken feed.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, it is? Okay.

MR. MOLINA: I guess part of it, too --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, you need to talk about...

MR. MOLINA: -- is...is telling the whole story, you know, comparing the benefits aspect of working for the County . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . but a lot of young guys have a hard time

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

April 14, 2025

thinking long-term, so that's one thing where we can improve is trying to help tell that story about why...why it is good to come work for the County.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, wow. Who'd ever think that you'd have a labor issue, right? Because is that skilled labor or unskilled labor?

MR. MOLINA: That's unskilled.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay. Just a side note.

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, got to be fit. Okay. But...okay. So, I wanted to tell you about a couple of things that have occurred this past couple of days. Groups of kids, and I know they're kids, because when I scold them, they tell, I'm sorry, Auntie, but you know what they're doing? Groups of three, four, five, riding their bikes all over the creation, in and out of traffic, and I'm just...oh, if was my kids, I'd lick them. But it's dangerous for them to be doing that, right? And here we have these wonderful street improvements that helps young people...I mean, people drive and drive safely, but we've got young kids. And I saw two groups of young kids. One of them was in Kahului, the other one was in Wailuku, doing those wheelie-wheelie things on the highway without any sense that there's traffic behind of them and coming up on the side of them. Now, I don't know what to do about that except tell the parents or come here and say, mom and dad, you better be watching your kids, because they're out there on their bikes doing these unsafe things. But do you have...or what do we do with kids who are putting themselves in danger like that? Do we not have bicycle rules? I mean, I'm not even sure maybe the bikes are registered, but do we have something, like when the kids have to register their bikes, do we have a training program? Do we have something that tells them, this is how you got to do it on the road? I mean, we build all these wonderful bike paths, right? But they don't use them.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I...I know that's an issue that was being taken up at the State Leg. as far as these electric bikes are becoming more powerful and needing to classify the different tiers of them and provide additional requirements. But I would have to defer to DMV, who does the licensing, and MPD that does enforcement to get ahead of that issue.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It's dangerous, but yeah. So, another thing I was going to ask, like on the Beach Road, Waiehu, I think...is that Waiehu Beach Road? Yeah, it's Waiehu Beach Road, just past the bridge. I think the community on the Paukūkalo side is asking for flashing lights for their people to cross the street from the bus stop to get to home. So, is...is that something you all do? Is that something that the State Highways does?

MR. MOLINA: If it's Waiehu Beach Road, it's a State highway.

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

April 14, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, the State would...the State would do that, and they'd have to put in the flashing, flashing lights and...

MR. MOLINA: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I see. Okay.

MR. MOLINA: That would be their equipment.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. Well, other than that, that's all the questions I had, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Just a couple more questions. Director, are there any repairs or upgrade improvements planned for the Hāna baseyard facility?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, thank you. We do have a project going for...well, I guess the first thing, we just did replace our cesspools and upgraded them to septic systems last year. And we --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. MOLINA: -- also have a project to bring in covered storage to help protect our equipment from the elements out there. And then lastly, we did include Hāna in our baseyard master planning effort, and so looking at more or less a better site for those guys entirely, because being locked up against the stream there is not an ideal, and even just the proximity to the highway, getting in and out is not...that's not the best site to be operating out of.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Oh, nice. Okay. So, you guys are actively looking for an alternate site?

MR. MOLINA: That's correct. And --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MOLINA: -- top candidate right now is down by the landfill.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, right. And...and we've also asked the State to EO maybe some of that properties over there for expansion for Solid Waste. Thank you for that. And then, Chair, my only other question was the same one to the Budget Director, that CI...if we can get a list of CIPs that...that use General Fund could potentially move to bond funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a good one. Okay. Very good. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. On Budget Details 22-43, you folks are planning on hiring professional services to retain, develop, and recruit a capable, motivated, and diverse workforce in support of, I'm assuming your key goal number 3 on page 718 in the Program Budget. When you guys have that professional service, do you still have to go through DPW or DPS, or how is that going to work?

MR. MOLINA: It kind of depends. If they have programmer trainers available, we'll try to coordinate with them. Otherwise, we've also hired those individuals directly ourselves.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And is it faster if you guys just do it yourself?

MR. MOLINA: Typically, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And how successful is your program for \$20,000 to hire people?

MR. MOLINA: You know, we're kind of growing into this, but on some of the previous one, we think that'll go a long way. I mean, way ahead from what we used to do in terms of providing these kinds of opportunities to our Staff.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Do you think that's something people should do, is just kind of hire their own? Like what you guys are doing?

MR. MOLINA: In part. I think there also needs to be more robust supervisory training across the County to --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- understand our policies and practices better.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: But then there's also tailored needs based on the department, you know, the unique operations of each department.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure. Okay. Regarding the salary increases for engineers, they have now a special salary schedule. Was that set by HGEA, or how did they come with this schedule?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, the union agreed to it, but it was kind of driven by other agents, or other municipalities in the State kind of taking the lead in creating these changes first.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And that’s just for engineers?

MR. MOLINA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Statewide?

MR. MOLINA: I believe...no, each...each...each employer has their own salary schedule, but I --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- believe it’s consistent.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And do you think that’ll help not only retain, but hopefully attract more engineers?

MR. MOLINA: I think, yeah --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: We can be competitive?

MR. MOLINA: -- I mean we definitely had people not leave as a result, and...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Were we going to lose some engineers?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, totally.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: And so, I think we’re also getting a few applicants that the pay has attracted them to the County.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sure, sure. Okay. Would you mind sharing that schedule with us? I only see it in the Details --

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- and I only see just where it’s been increased, but is there a formula . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . to how it’s been increased?

MR. MOLINA: I’m not sure the formula they use, but there is...yeah, we can provide the schedule.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MOLINA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: That’s all from me, Chair.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're fine? Okay. Thank you. So, I'm just curious, did we want Gary Ambrose to join us? He's sitting in the Chambers. Oh, I think if...if...if Molina wants him to.

MR. MOLINA: Oh, no, that's okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay.

MR. MOLINA: We're almost done, yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I think so, but...but I think he might want to say a few words, you know? So, I want to go back to the Wai'ale project extension, so thanks. On this, so you're not afraid that we're going to lose any of the Federal funds, and there's general funds, highway funds, and the State, right, in your financial stack. Also, general obligation bonds, so that's good. I was...

MR. MOLINA: No General Fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: General Fund got 22 million. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm looking at the whole capital improvement. Sorry, wrong one. Oh, has State fund and Federal funds, general obligation. Okay. So, on this one, you're requesting for 20 million from the State, and I'm hearing that it's going to be 5 million that's going to come from State DOT, and that's it. Can you verify?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I heard that they were going to support us with additional five for...from the Federal Aid Program, and...real quick, what was the balance?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That came from...it's Director Sniffen.

MR. MOLINA: Oh, excuse me, 5 from the State and 15 from the Fed Aid funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the Fed Aid funds are not included in this financial stack yet?

MR. MOLINA: It is, so just ensuring, because what we have here is way more than we typically get in our allocation, and so the State was going to complement that...that balance that we usually...that exceed our...our typical allocation by allocating some of their portion toward the program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, you're fine then with your funding? From --

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- getting the Federal Aid Program?

MR. MOLINA: If we get approval as proposed, yeah.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Because I see you have 20 here, and so I thought, how are you going to make the 20, because the State is saying it's going to be 5 with Sniffen...I mean, State DO...State DOT commitment, and that's where the other balance is coming from.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, so that 20 may change in actuality to a 5, and then the Fed number goes up another 15.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Oh, very good. And then you got the question that all departments will get about general obligation bonds. And I think I'm...I'm good, and I see Member Rawlins-Fernandez just came in.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm not leaving yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're not leaving yet? Oh, okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you want to wait a little bit before you ask questions of Public Works, or are you ready?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I've been listening. All my questions and more have been answered, so I'm good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Cook, you have a question? This is last round.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, last round. So, County schedule for road resurfacing, is that something that's...is it a public, people can get on it? People ask me all the time, when's this road going to be rescheduled...surfaced, or this one, or that one, is that just call you guys and ask? Or...

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, because we don't want to overpromise --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- because it can move a little, but we do generally have the list of roads for each district mapped out at least two to three years.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, that must be an item, as far as for like cost increase, difficult to budget in advance, because the cost of oil and materials?

MR. MOLINA: No, we kind of...or I guess we kind of plan around the budget, we...we allocate or request to cover how much, and it kind of depends on whether one year is enough to cover a particular road, or we might have to package two years together, which was kind of the instance for East Maui, where the cost got large, so we kind of had to put two years' worth of funding together.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: But we...we can provide you a list of what we have planned for this budget.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thanks.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Anyway, that's all my questions, Chair. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, last round, two minutes each. Anybody, more questions? Besides Member Paltin. Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you have had no time yet, so please proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director, Deputy Director, Staff. I think my questions might end up being for Budget Director, but could you explain the change in...or either Director or Budget Director...Highway Fund, the reduction in the amount of revenue that's come in, and then the increased expenses from the past years, and the increase in supplemental transfers because of it?

MR. MOLINA: I can...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just generally speaking.

MR. MOLINA: I'll start. I know there was an issue with some of the DOT's funding with the Federal component, which was the supplemental transfer, but what I understand is that's atypical, we usually don't have that supplemental transfer too regularly.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Correct, that's why I was asking about it. Do you know how much that Federal funding and...so it...just we were denied that? Was that part of a formula fund that Director Takamori was kind of speaking to, or is that something more discretionary?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. I'm sure Transportation could answer that in writing, but I believe what Director Takamori was saying that that was a Federal program that maybe was either discontinued or reduced, and so now the counties had to step in and make up that difference, but he could provide you with the specifics.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But for the supplemental transfer regarding the...the Federal fund that we're doing the supplement for?

MS. MILNER: So, I think I would say there are a variety of reasons for the increase in the supplemental transfer this year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Specifically for Public Works.

MS. MILNER: Well, it's hard to differentiate on Highway Fund between Public Works and Transportation, but I would say, you know, we did have over 6 million less in Carryover/Savings in the Highway Fund this year, so that's certainly part of it. And we have some increased operational expenses, obviously under the Highway Fund, and that

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

April 14, 2025

would be specifically for Public Works, as we talked about Transportation already today.
Thank you, Chair.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're done? All right. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just wanted to clarify her answer. So, is there any General Fund supplemental transfer for Public Works this year?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. The Highway Fund supplemental transfer this year is for both Public Works and the Department of Transportation. We don't differentiate how it's split between the departments necessarily, because it's all Highway Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Because I thought the Highway Fund over here had like 5 million or so, and that just stays in the Highway Fund. It doesn't go to the General Fund and come back to the Highway Fund?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, that's correct. Any fines, fees, or charges for service or anything like that that are Highway Fund go directly into the Highway Fund. They don't route through the General Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. There's a good friend of yours that's also suing you that is going around and telling everyone that we're waiting on the County of Maui to introduce legislation based on Senate Concurrent Resolution 153 and Senate Resolution 123 in regards to Hui roads from the judiciary. Is there any plans to do that? And if you were, how much would the resurfacing and speed bumps cost that I would need to put in for?

MR. MOLINA: I...I know that they...the court did send the deeds over to us right around the wildfire times, which we're still looking at and need to bring to you guys to adopt.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, not this fiscal year, you don't want me to put money in?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I think we should come back with more detailed numbers on what...what it might take to...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: And where those roads fit in our priorities, too.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I see the increases in utilities based on Fiscal Year '24 actual, but I think Wastewater projected like a 9 percent increase. And for the higher tiers, there's different percentage increase for water and like that. And then I see the increases for electricity. If you could provide what the electricity increases based on . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . and whether or not, you know, everybody's been informed of the

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

April 14, 2025

sewer and water increases and factor that into, say, their Fiscal Year '24 actuals. If you need to respond in writing, you can.

MR. MOLINA: So, yeah, those represent our best guess of what those increases might be over the coming years. It always goes up. I don't believe we factored in any sort of major rate increases from water or sewer in our...in our budgets.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would you consider 9 percent major?

MR. MOLINA: For the size of our budget? Maybe not exactly, but I mean, 9 percent is a significant chunk. But because we pay for, you know, like this building and multiple...buildings that host multiple agencies. Yeah, I mean, it's going to be a big cost, but I mean, more so like your homeowner's going to feel that definitely a lot more than...than the County will.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I see that Lānaʻi has two Equipment Operator IV vacancies, one that's been vacant for like probably over six years and one just in 2024. What's the reality that you'll be able to find an Equipment Operator IV on Lānaʻi? And maybe if you had started with the Equipment Operator I six years ago, that guy could be a IV by now? Or like how realistic is it that you're going to find two Equipment Operator IVs amongst the...

MR. MOLINA: We just promoted one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: So, we're halfway there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, now you need a Equipment Operator III?

MR. MOLINA: I guess we'd have to check to see if we have individuals that are ready to move up, because typically we try and promote for those positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the one that was vacant for six years, we don't really need that?

MR. MOLINA: No, because what...what happens too is, like I mentioned, we TA, we use those vacancies for TA opportunities, which provides training and also allows us to cover when we don't have --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, keep it?

MR. MOLINA: -- gaps. Yeah. So, I mean, not all vacancies are bad. You know, they...they are part of our tools of operating the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did any of the Council cuts in salary for Fiscal Year '25 prevent you from hiring people?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: No, because you guys were gracious enough to ensure that we would be able to proceed with creating positions, even though they were not funded or reduced funding. So, that was a key provision that I would encourage you guys to allow again. If we do end up reducing the salary allocations, allowing the departments to continue moving through the position creation process, because it does take some time to...to get to the point of hiring somebody and paying out salaries.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have more questions, but I know also Nohe does. So, I'll stop right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. One question.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I only have one question, and then Member Paltin can have the rest of my time if you allow. I'm looking at your Engineering Program where a lot of the, you know, special salary schedules are increased, except for the Engineering Program Manager. He's an EM, or they rather, women in STEM, EM-7. So, are we expecting that one to have an increase, or how come he did...or sorry, I shouldn't say he, that person, that position didn't have an increase?

MR. MOLINA: I'm very glad you asked this question, because unfortunately, this is another area where DPS doesn't understand our needs.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Please tell.

MR. MOLINA: So, we...we...we do have a challenge where these positions are now the pay is comparable to being a deputy director. And so, the...what I was told, the reasoning was we didn't want to inhibit our ability to get deputy directors further, and so we are not taking any action on the EMs, which is a huge concern for us, because now nobody wants to be a division chief.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Got it.

MR. MOLINA: And to me, that is detrimental to the County, because that is the lifeblood of keeping this place running, is our chiefs, our guys down here.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. MOLINA: I don't run the programs. I just make sure they got their stuff they need. They're the ones that got to answer those calls, and be around, and get the Staff mobilized, and all the work is with the chiefs. And so, it is a huge concern for me that we're not addressing the EM schedules in response to the salary...engineer salaries. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for your candid response. What can we do to help? I thought it was only one question, and then he answered it the way he did, so I'm sorry.

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: I mean, yeah, pushing on DPS to get that resolved. I know part of it is we...we are having new contracts come out. So, that's, you know, part of what's inhibiting DPS to look at it, but I mean, other counties adopted their EM schedules concurrently with the engineering increases. I'm not sure why we couldn't get that support.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, we didn't do that?

MR. MOLINA: We did not, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, interesting.

MR. MOLINA: And so, yeah, it's...I potentially going to have some chiefs considering stepping down as a result.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I wouldn't blame them. I mean, he...sorry, they are getting paid about \$800 less than another civil engineer a few positions down. So, we're asking people to do more and get paid less potentially.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for your answers. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, before I go to Member Paltin, tied to that was a discussion that we had with the Mayor's Office. And I believe that what we heard was that the Mayor was looking at EM positions and was going to make recommendations. So, was he looking at all? Is this something, it's not a question for this Department necessarily, but maybe for Budget Director as it ties to this, but ties to that other meeting, which was not Public Works.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, we were making noise about it. So, thankfully we are getting some attention on the issue and hopefully it's not too late.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And it's going to...this is going to tie into what I'm going to announce after we're done with your meeting. But it...it may be relevant, very relevant. And if you and I could talk story after the meeting so I understand your thought process and how we can help you. Because it sounds like it's a greater discussion. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director. BD...Budget Details, page 22-57. I was wondering what equipment is being freighted and hauled to support Lāna'i and Molokai pavement preservations. And is this like Young Brothers and have the shipping increases been taken into account?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, that's correct. It's to haul the paving equipment to the outer districts, Lāna'i and Molokai, so we can have our in-house crew support those areas also.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you took the shipping...proposed shipping increases into account on the estimates?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, so this is a budget. We've...we've only started...we only recently had the program big enough to now where we can feel comfortable mobilizing to those districts. So, we'll see how much...how far this gets us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I see. And then the permitting fees that 4LEAF collects, do they get to keep that?

MR. MOLINA: They keep a portion, which is their cost. And then the balance returns to the revolving fund and the General Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then but we put out a contract, so we prepaid them, and then they keep a portion of the fees, or how did that work?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, so we pay them under the contract, and the payment is based on a percentage of the fees. And then there's a flat cost to operate the recovery permit center and some of the overhead costs, just to have the office open.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then there was a portion in there talking about receiving reimbursements from FEMA and Federal Highways Administration emergency...well, their ER...recovery funds, like 5.2 million and 2.2 million. If the County does get that, does it go into the General Fund or the Highway Fund?

MR. MOLINA: Typically, it's the Highway Fund, because most of that work is highway-funded related.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the DHHL lease, is that directly in behind of the existing . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . baseyard?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, so up behind there, there was a parking lot that I think used to be used by the hotels, or I forget who exactly. And so, DHHL authorized us to use that in the interim so we can secure our equipment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you need to...your two leases, the one in Central and this one, do you need to do fencing and security on that?

MR. MOLINA: Yes, we will need. I don't think the DHHL one is fenced fully yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Department, do you have any comments before we close?

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

April 14, 2025

MR. MOLINA: No, thank you, Chair, and appreciate the work of the Council on the budget. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I always say with this Director, because he worked in the Office of Council Services, and he did budget, by the way, he is swift. So, I love...I love to work with him or hear what he has to say, right? Anyway, thank you very much, and we will see you again in regular Committee meetings. Thank you very much. All right. Members, so it is now 2:21. Member Cook, thanks for sticking around because I know you were going to leave early. If any of you have questions for the departments, please submit it to OCS by 9:00 tomorrow morning with any additional questions. Today at 4:30, your Economic Development, Environmental, and Cultural Program conditions are due at 4:30 to Staff. And remember, your priorities are also due Thursday, April 17th by 9:00. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I was hoping someone can explain to me why our district priorities are due today when we're not completed?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's not?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We haven't...I'm sorry?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's what you just read.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Economic...your \$140,000 project.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, OED district funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, OED --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- pot.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Cultural, environmental.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. We're talking about the same thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're not done with our hearings, our...our evening hearings, and we didn't go to South Maui or Pā'ia yet. I don't understand. And we don't...we generally don't vote against anything that we put in our own district priorities, so I don't understand why we're being asked to submit them --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- before decisions week.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, any thought on that? I mean, I kind of...kind of know what I want to do, but okay, go ahead, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think at least the two districts that haven't gone yet should have extension, because what if they don't know...like, I mean...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or more. Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, because what if somebody --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You guys are fine with that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- says something tonight or tomorrow night, and then they're like, shucks, I turned it in, I gave away all the money, like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and then we have an unfair advantage, because like people asked and we're like, oh, I didn't have Kaibigan on mine, but you know, they were there, and they said whatever. So, I think it puts this half of the people, or this --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not fair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- not half, but it puts us --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and not them too on unfair footing, it feels.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, you're all fine?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Chair Lee has her hand up, because --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- she had a proposal in the beginning of Budget Session, and I support it.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, we talked about this, I think, yesterday. I asked you why would we submit our district proposals now before we've decided on the entire budget, because I was going to suggest, and you knew this, I was going to suggest that we raise it from 140,000 to something higher. So, in other words, we're going to give you...well, I sent mine in, but, an incomplete...an incomplete list. So, as long as you...you're aware of that, and you agree to that, then we're fine, because...and you said it's okay, because we're going to decide on the number later on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Decisions...decisions week, when we take up the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Yeah, because I...I said, well, what if we decide on a higher number than...than 140? And you said, well, we're going to decide on that later on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, that's why I didn't feel bad that I was submitting my list today when it's incomplete --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- to me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Two...two things then, Members. For the...for Member U'u-Hodgins and Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, and I forgot Chair Lee and Member Kama are on Thursday, so I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's true.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I forgot about that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's true.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, five of us have an unfair advantage.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you guys want to change the deadline to Friday?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'd like to change it to decisions week, when we can vote.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What do you guys want to do?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's what I would like to do.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That might be better, Chair, because you know, then we'll know what that limit is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, taking into...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That might affect the people on the list right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Take into account all that we're trying to do for the entire budget. Yeah. Since we're going to be doing cuts and not only adds, right? I mean, seriously. All right. So next week Monday, is that all right with you guys? Okay. Next week Monday, during decisions week. Any thoughts?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're taking up OED on Monday?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I don't understand why you need it so quickly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're taking up...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I asked that in my initial question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do I have the wrong date? April 21st we're doing decisions. We're going to be done with all the departments. Am I wrong?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, whenever we take up OED, is when we should take up --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We had OED --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the list.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- already on April the 1st.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In decisions week, Chair.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we're going to do...we're going to do the Bill 41 in alpha order. So, it'll come up eventually. So, I want to set a date. Wait, hang on, recess. We'll come back at, what, 3:00 --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- 2:30?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Before you recess, can we excuse the Department? They don't have to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- hear this discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We love Jordan Molina, but not that much. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We should take a recess . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think he...you can leave. Sorry about that. You wanted to hear this?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, let's...let's take a break to 2:35. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:26 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:41 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Based upon the points brought up, would Monday, next week Monday at noon be okay for you to turn in whatever your conditions are for your districts? And if you have it done, like mine is done, I can...you can turn it in earlier. So, earlier, the better. And the reason why the department needs it is...I mean, the Staff needs it is, you know, I have a really good example. So, as you know, one of the things that I have started and did all these years is...or maybe you don't know, but Maui Matsuri. So, graciously, the Mayor put in the budget last year, and it was under Maui Matsuri. That's not his real name. The entity is Maui Japanese Cultural Society of Maui, Inc., or maybe it's Japanese Cultural Society of, you know, Maui, Inc., or whatever it is. And the legal name, because the legal name was wrong, it delayed the money flowing forward. So, the department...the Staff needs to look up all of these legal names to make sure it's correct, or as best as we can. I hope that you do that so we don't run into the...those kinds of stumbles as we try to put together Bill 41 as it needs to be with correct entities. So, next week Monday at noon. Any comments? You're good? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next week, okay. And then...

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wait, no. No, no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, when are we going to decide on...on the new amount?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, decisions week. We can take it up earlier than alpha order in...in Bill 41. So, we can take it up, yeah? Okay. We can take it up on Monday.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On Monday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And...and again, you know, as we're looking at departments and we're saying we're going to cut budgets, you know, I want us to be sensitive to that also as we go through Bill 41. And also on Thursday, the 17th will be your priority, the Member priorities. And there is a template that the OCS Staff made so that you could fill in for both. It'll guide you through the process. And I also wanted to find out from you...I mean, today was a good example. If you as a Committee want to have any of the departments return to us, and I...I will say that I was thinking of the Mayor, the Mayor's Department, which was on April the 1st, and then also DPS. Based upon all the departments that come before us and they have situations, concerns, you know, with DPS, I wanted DPS to come forward. And I'm going to ask Staff to look through the discussions that we've had with, by then, all the departments and see the challenges that the departments are having with DPS and see how we can try to find some solutions or direction through this budget process. I know Management has a contract to do a study or report or whatever the terminology is, a management study on DPS. And it seems...it sounds like it's pretty deep, the problems that the departments are having. So, is...is that all right with all of you, return? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes. And I just was wondering the question I asked about the 1-1-1900. It's okay for us to send to DPS to get, like, you know, an accurate listing of those ones which are posted for recruitment and/or otherwise? That's okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So, you got it? You've folks all got that? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, I was...I wanted to ask for, it would be Department of the Mayor, right, with Cynthia Lallo, who, when she came before us on April the

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

April 14, 2025

1...April...April the 1...April 1, there was a response sent to us with volumes of paper, which is Office of the Mayor-3, I think it was, is that right? It was 3, yeah? And you can look at that, as well as DPS. So, that would be on Thursday. Is Thursday the open day for that?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. There's...there's potential for...potentially Wednesday afternoon may be available, depending on how deliberations go in the morning that day. But if not, the Committee could consider recessing to Thursday afternoon, although Staff will just note that there is a Council meeting that morning and the Fiscal Year 2026 public hearing that evening. So, there may be some time constraints depending on how the morning meeting goes, et cetera.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, next week...I mean, this...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. I will. But this week, Wednesday, we're going to have the...the tail end of all the departments, right? And with OCS and Ag.. Okay. Those are only two?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. And...and then I believe the Committee set aside some time in case it needed to discuss like general budget provisions and...and...and other additional legislation, things of that nature.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. And then I was thinking then, do you want to take up on Wednesday those two departments and then maybe recess to the next day, if need be? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, wait, wait.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Chair Lee . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Chair Lee has a thought.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I'm...I'm wondering why you need to talk to the Mayor's Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I can see DPS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, even DPS, because we all know we got major problems with the system, the system, yeah? That I don't know that we can fix in one day. But --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- what did you have in mind --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- with the Mayor's Office?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, because the Mayor's Office came and almost, or not almost, but a lot of their response was send it to me in writing, so we did get their response in writing, and I just wondered if you have questions on their responses back to you, or if you're fine, we won't bring it back. But those were the two that I had identified that I would like to come before us, and if any of the Members had questions for the Mayor's Office, now's the time, and then again, DPS. That's why.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know I...I was hoping that the Council would...that the Council could agree with some fundamental things, like seriously making some deep cuts into the budget, because I don't...I can't imagine them being able to spend a billion dollars, so therefore, we're overcharging.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you sound so bad.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We're overcharging our taxpayers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, our total --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: To me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- budget --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's my...that's my opinion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- is actually close to...yeah. I...I agree, we got to...I agree, we have to do some cuts. The total budget, as presented to us by the Mayor, is 1.5 billion for operations, and we also have CIP money and grants that we're receiving, so the total picture is really closer to 2 billion, you know, if you look at the spread. The --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the...I don't know what that framework is.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Not counting the other --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- not counting the DR funds --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no --

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- DR funds is not even this.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, DR funds already is in this budget.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I...I...I know --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: '25.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- that. I know that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's like having us, you know, be in charge of spending half a billion dollars. We...we...we wouldn't be able to do this in our offices, or maybe you could, but you know, generally speaking, we don't have the...the Staff, the resources, everything. So, what I'm saying is this is a lot of money, and if anything, we got to focus on how do we make legitimate, reasonable cuts --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- and then when we see what the cuts amount to, what do we do with that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What do we do with that?

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's why, you know, I didn't want to spend too much time or more on the departments, because --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're done.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I mean, you know, yeah, what more can you say with them?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members...Members, do you want to hear...well, do you want to hear back from the Mayor's Office? That was my suggestion, as well as DPS.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure, I'm okay. But I only heard the day of the week. Do you mind putting what number of the day that was?

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, today is the 14th, right? Tomorrow we have DEM in full, as well as we go to Nohe's residency area meeting. And then on Wednesday is when we have Ag and OCS. And on this day, I wanted to tag in the Mayor's Office, as well as DPS. And that meeting starts at 10:00 on Wednesday, because of the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'm okay with it, but that's our webinar date. Like you know, you have community meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, he's talking about Lahaina.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, what do you...what does that mean to you?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That means...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don't want to do it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, I'm going to be on the webinar at 5:30 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 5:30. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- ish.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, hopefully, you know, we start at 10:00 on Wednesday, and we can finish the two departments, and then get you off to your webinar at what, 4:30?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 5:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 5:30. Okay. Member Johnson, did you have your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, Chair. Thank you. I just want to prepare the body that I have some hefty priorities. I won't get into them, because of Sunshine Law, but I do have some hefty priorities, just letting you guys know.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, I just asked already, and I'd prefer just to hold off, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- I think just letting you know, there's some big stuff coming from my office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We always expect big stuff coming from your office. Okay. Then, on the 17th, right? Yeah? That's when your conditions will be due, your priorities are due at 9:00 Thursday. And you're okay with Mayor and DPS? Or...or...

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What are we hoping to achieve with...oh, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, I'm sorry. Will you please repeat the...like, what are we hoping to achieve by having DPS and the Mayor speak to us?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we've...well, because of the answers that we got in Office of the Mayor-3, and I would just...I mean, I just thought maybe you wanted clarification on some of them, because it was kind of a hefty response, with lots of graphs and a lot of whatever that you wonder why we didn't receive it on April 1st when we first started, right? But that was their response, so if you guys are fine, you don't need to have them come back, I'm fine with that. The other one was Personnel, which sounds like we want to have Personnel come back. And now that we heard all the departments and each one of them talked about their challenges that they're having with Personnel, I would like to hear from them as to how we can be better, how we can work better. What do they need, right? Because it sounds like there's a problem. And, Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I mean, I'd like to hear from DPS, too, because it seems like the departments are being held up through that process, and I think we should figure out how to help them so they can figure out how to help all the departments. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Okay. Let's see.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I have a point of clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, the priorities are due at 9:00 a.m. on the 17th. Like, I had one proposal, which was to take resiliency hubs from the Office --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Put it in MEMA.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- of the Mayor and put it into MEMA. Is...if...if it's not an increase or decrease or whatever, it's just a here to there, is that a priority? Like, how...how do I do that? Or you'll get back to me in writing or something?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I hear what you're saying, because it's kind of a...I don't know if the Department asked you for that, or...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, remember when they were here --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You talked to Amos. Oh, sorry.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Amos said he was open to it. And...and I mean, it a little bit makes sense, because, you know, who knows with the election or whatever, what's going to happen in two or three years, and then that whole group of people that was working on the resiliency hub might be two sheets to the wind or whatever. But MEMA people should still be there, you know. So, in terms of continuity for resiliency hubs, which are supposed to be around for our...our need in a disaster, that would be my main reason, is the continuity. Like what if...and I'm not trying to say nothing, anything, but we've seen it happen with so many administrations, Arakawa one, Tavares, Victorino, like, just total swap out, and then we have all this money put into resiliency hubs, and everybody leaves, and like, so where's all that resiliency hub stuff? Oh, I don't know, you got to ask the old administration. Oh, they moved to the mainland, or whatever, whatever, you know, passed away, I don't know. So, that would be my reasoning for moving it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but I don't feel like it's an --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- increased priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, what I'm going to do is tomorrow, before we start at 10:00, we can go over this and talk about it just so that we're all clear, so we can have our priorities as discussed, like an example of what you're saying. So...all right. Yes, Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I would be happy to talk to DPS again, if necessary. I think it might be a good idea to talk to Office of the Mayor if OED is under them as well. If we're going to increase our budget for district funds, that's going to impact them too, and if we make that decision unilaterally, and we don't get their either buy-in or ability to actually do all the grants, then there's no point of increasing our budget. We heard that from Department of Human Concerns when Member Johnson asked point blank, if we just add more money into this fund, is it going to be harder for you? And she said yes. So, if we increase our --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- budget to...from what it is now at 140 to whatever it may be, if they can't actually do the grants, it's pointless on our end. I had a hard time getting all of our grantees paid out on time, and so if this is what it's going to continue to be with OED working with us, I don't know if severely increasing our budget means basically defunding OED, if that's what that looks like for us. But it might be a conversation worth having if we're taking our office budget at 1...140,000 per Councilmember to, as proposed, 500,000. That's a \$4.5 million budget of grants just from our pockets, rather, and so what does that look like for OED? That's not a small increase.

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

April 14, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And you remember that one of the things that...Lesley is still there, right, Budget Director said, is that once this budget is done, that everything that is not conditioned from that particular pot, OED was going to do it, right? And I've...I've had my...my condition in there saying that any...any...any action taken by the Department, they got to check with, you know, the Member before they...and you heard my story, right? One day, I was like, oh, look, they put all of our money out to bid, you know, or out, you know, for the community, and they didn't even tell us, but that was by...anyway, we don't want to go through history. You guys heard me say this several times. So...okay. So, that's a good reason, then you guys are all okay? Office of the Mayor? Oh, Chair Lee, hands up, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I just want to remind everybody, yeah, that the checks and balances of the government, we are the check on the Administration, and that doesn't mean that we have to appease them every...at every turn. And as a matter of fact, we need to be more responsible, given all the issues we've been dealt with in this last year. The...the 60 amendments, unprecedented.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget amendments.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And most of that money on the amendments came from Carryover/Savings. Now, what creates Carryover/Savings? A lack of spending. So, are we going to go through the same thing again? So, I hope not. I hope not. You know we have to stand our ground at some point --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- and be responsible, and hold their feet to the fire, you know. So, that's all I'm saying. You know like, let's not fashion this budget to make it easier for them. That's...that's not the point. It's to make it right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Agreed. Agree. And it just shows you by the budget amendments that were proposed with Carryover/Savings, majority of them, that there's fat in the budget, and you know, as we just saw, right, in the A Account, and all over. So...but anyway, I think we all are wanting to do the best job that we can, Members. So, we will hear on Wednesday from Office of the Mayor, and ask them to come prepare...prepared with discussion about OED. And as you notice, did you all notice also, that usually when the Office of the Mayor comes out, we have a whole flood of testifiers of people whose names are in the budget, please keep me in the budget, and I don't think we heard from anybody. I thought, wow, that's really unusual. That means OED is not paying attention. But that's fine, because we made it through. Now we're going to get all these testifiers on Wednesday. But...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it was quiet, but anyway, that I thought was kind of unusual.

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

April 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, that's not what Member Paltin said. She said there was a lot of written testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we know that, too. I'm just saying we usually have a flood of people come through.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I like the written, it's...it's easier on my butt, but harder on my eyes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Anything...I know she has her pillow. Anybody else have any comments? Okay. Members, thank you very much. Very productive meeting today, and I...I appreciate the departments. Thank you very much, Director Milner, for your hours that you've been spending on this budget. And we will see you all tonight, 5:00 for dinner, and 6:00 is the meeting that we'll hear from Member Cook. He went off to cook, how nice of him. This meeting is now...oh, we're going to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: TC)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And --

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this meeting, is 3:01 p.m., is adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 3:01 p.m.

bfed:min:250414-1:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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

April 14, 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 90 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 29th day of April 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel Schoenbeck", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel Schoenbeck