

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

MINUTES

April 20, 2026

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:07 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Kauanoe Batangan, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (arrived at 9:12 a.m. and left at 4:33 p.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (arrived at 9:15 a.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

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

ADMIN.: Kristie Wigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Marcy Martin, Director, Department of Finance
Eddie Manzano, County Real Property Technical Officer, Real Property Tax
Division, Department of Finance

OTHERS: Jeff Ueoka
Travis Liggett
Mike Reyes
Christopher Salem
Jasee Law
Sanoe Ka'aihue
Others (12)

PRESS: Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
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April 20, 2026

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...*(gavel)*... Welcome, everybody, to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Today is April the 20th, and the time is 9:07 a.m. Welcome. Everybody has been working hard, so, good to see you here as we start our decisions week. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee, and I want to say that this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. As a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is a room...is in the room with you or workspace, and minors do not need to be identified. Good morning, Vice-Chair Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aloha kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Good morning, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha and good morning, Chair. Looking forward to today's meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Good morning, Member Johnson. You're here.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good. Yeah, a lot of work to do. I see Chair Lee will be joining us. Member Paltin, good morning.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Member Rawlins-Fernandez is...will be joining us, I'm sure. Member Sinenci, you're in Hāna, I understand.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, everybody. I'm here at my district office. I'm here with District Staff Dawn Lono. And Chair, we had a successful Taro Festival this weekend. It was overcast, so not too hot, and a little bit of rain. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, you got blessed. Yeah, I heard it was successful from somebody who caught the MEO bus over to Hāna. So...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We did see Daryl. Daryl performed.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, he did?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Fujiwara. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, that's rare. Somebody must have asked him or forced him. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. All right. So, this morning, assisting us in today's meeting is the BFED Committee Staff. Thank you very much for working and taking our calls over the weekend also. Our invited resource persons from the Administration include Budget Director, Director of Finance, as well as Deputy Director [sic] Corp. Counsel Wigglesworth. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting. We have one item on today's agenda, which is proposed Fiscal Year '27 Budget for the County of Maui. And, Members, I will be taking testimony after opening comments from our Department. So, Members, today we begin our decision making on the Fiscal Year '27 Budget. Before we begin, I wanted to provide a brief overview of our plans for today and this week. First, Director Martin will provide her presentation on the RPT Certification. The certification books are in your mailboxes. If you haven't received it, they're, of course, very well done, with some good news, so that was nice. Actually...and after her presentation, we'll take public testimony and proceed with Members' questions on the RPT Certification. Once that discussion is complete, Staff will distribute the Members' priorities matrix, and we'll do that after. And before lunch, I'd like to address the number of priorities permitted for each Member. Once that discussion is complete, I plan to recess for lunch so Members have time to review the priority matrix. And when we return from lunch, hopefully closer to noon, we will first take up duplicate priorities. If there are duplicate priorities, the affected Members will need to decide who will keep the priority and who will submit...submit a replacement or substitute proposal. Any replacement or substitute proposal for a duplicate priority will be due...did we change it to tomorrow morning? Yeah, tomorrow morning. And after we complete...complete duplicate priorities, we will take up broad cuts to the Mayor's proposed budget, and we'll start with Legislative Branch and proceed department by department after that in the order used in Bill 55. So, we'll look at broad cuts, and then we will dig into Bill 55 in the budget and go in that order. For each department, we will take up Members' priorities first, then cuts related to Members' priorities. After that, we will review the operating budget, CIP, Appendix A, Part I and II, rates and fees as applicable before...before moving on to the next department. Once we finish with the departments, we will move on to general budget provisions and remaining budget-related legislation. So, we'll take up all of that, and then we'll do legislative proposals. Members, my goal for today is to complete all departments up to Environmental Management. At this time, I'd like to...oh, I'll start with Legislative Branch and then go up to Department of Environmental Management for today. At this time, I'd like to invite Director Martin to provide her opening presentation on RPT Certification. The RPT Certification, for members of the public

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

April 20, 2026

and the Members, is Granicus number 67. So...and once we receive opening comments, then we'll do public testimony and then proceed with your questions, of which you'll be have...you'll be given three minutes per person. Good morning, Director.

MS. MARTIN: Good morning, and thank you for having us here today. I wanted to introduce you to Eddie Manzano. He is our Property Technical Officer, and he has been in charge of these booklets and all of the statistics that this body asked for since 2010. So, I'm excited that he gets to be here, and he does a great job with providing statistics and numbers for this body and for the Department of Finance. So, the Real Property Tax Certification is available for download from the public on mauicounty.gov under assessed values, and the presentation will be referring to pages from the 2026 Real Property Assessment Certification handout for Council and the 2026 Selected Statistics for Budget handout. And the two packets are bound together, and they're separated by a hard plastic sheet. So, I just kind of wanted to give that briefing. So, in this slide, the certified value for 2026 is \$83,177,798,400 [sic]. So, the certified value represents gross assessed values, less exemptions, less 50 percent of the value in dispute from appeals filed by April 9th for the 2026 assessment years. And the certified values multiplied by the Mayor's proposed tax rates using the Mayor's proposed tiers, less circuit breaker tax relief credits, adjustments for late exemptions, and adding the minimum tax produces real property tax revenues of \$660,365,625. So, this figure is \$156,548 more than projected real property tax revenue in the Mayor's proposed budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Marcy? Oh, sorry. Director, can I introduce Chair Lee --

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- as she's sitting here? Good morning, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning. Looking forward to the meeting. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Now you can continue. Sorry to interrupt you.

MS. MARTIN: So, this page shows the net taxable values over the past ten years. So, this chart does not include adjustments for appeals. And the current assessments were derived using market data up to June 30th, 2025. And so, assessed values for the '26 assessment year decreased just under 1 percent, which is relatively stable considering the significant increases in the past nine out of ten years.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What page is that in the booklet?

MS. MARTIN: That is page 18 in your certification handout.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MARTIN: I'll read the page number. So, the next one is page 18 of the certification handout, and our total certified value decreased less than 1 percent. And it's the same trend as the net taxable values. The difference is this figure accounts for 50 percent of the value on appeal. Okay. The next slides are from the second handout, the selected real property statistics for budget consideration. Okay. So...and this is page 3 in that handout. And this is a summary by land class. So, this worksheet compares this year's certification with last year's budgeted real property taxes. And values have remained relatively stable in most classifications. The Long-Term Rental classification continues to grow, with 4,350 parcels compared to 3,223 last year. And the TVR/STRH class shows the largest value reduction. And this is the spreadsheet that I usually refer to throughout the year. This is page 4 of the budget statistics handout. And this graph is just showing the importance of real property taxes in our overall budget. It's 40.8 percent of our revenue sources. This is page 4 of your handout, and it shows that...or excuse me, this is page 5 of the handout, and this graph shows that our certification has been on an upward trend the past ten years, but this year it is relatively stable. It also shows that our real property tax revenue has doubled within the past nine years. So, this is page 8 of the handout, and this is a graph of a GIS map of our Council districts with the various statistics per district. So, the current minimum tax is \$300, and a little over 7,800 parcels pay the minimum tax. So, that's about 10 percent of our taxable parcels pay the minimum tax. So, taxpayers are charged the minimum tax when their assessed value multiplied by the tax rate is less than \$300. So, this is page 21 in your handout...of the budget statistic handout, and this shows who pays the minimum tax. And the largest group of parcels paying the minimum tax is vacant remnant land or low-value land or land receiving agriculture use values for 100 percent of the parcel. And then the second largest group is the Owner-Occupied class where 2,949 parcels pay the minimum tax in the Owner-Occupied class. So, this next slide is page 22 of the handout, and this slide shows your real property taxes under appeal. And this is showing 100 percent of the taxes under appeal. As you can see, 55 percent of the taxes under appeal come from the Hotel and the Resort class. As I mentioned earlier, the deduction for the certification is 50 percent of the value on appeal. So, that impacts your revenue. It equates to 50 percent of the taxes on appeal are deducted from the budgeted revenue. So, this next chart is page 25 of the handout, and this shows circuit breaker statistics. So, the number of applicants has increased from last year, as did the average credit. And the County of Maui passed several ordinances in the past two years, which have resulted in these increases. So, Ordinance 5681, passed in August 2024, increased the credit amount and the building value threshold. Ordinance 5912, passed in December '25, creates a new category for long-time Owner-Occupied properties, giving a larger credit of \$10,000 and no building value limit. And Ordinance 5868, passed in October '25, eased the Federal transcript requirements for certain eligible applicants. So, this slide is page 28 of your handout, and this shows value bands in the Owner-Occupied class along with circuit breaker. So, your net taxable value includes the \$300,000 home exemption deduction. So, 90 percent of the Owner-Occupied properties are subject to only Tier 1 tax rates. So, it should be noted that 10 percent of the Owner-Occupied parcels, which are in Tiers 2 and 3...of those parcels, 17 have circuit breaker credits. So, most of our circuit breaker credits go to property owners with average assessed value amounts. This next slide is page 29 in your handout, and

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

April 20, 2026

it shows your tax relief statistics. So, for this year, about 50 percent of our parcels will receive some form of tax relief. So, this next slide is page 31, and it gives the Long-Term Rental statistics. So, the program has finally matured to where we had anticipated. You know, we were hoping to get about 5,000 applicants, and we're...we're there. So, the division has implemented an online application process. And this new process sends reminders to taxpayers to reapply because they have to reapply when their lease expires. So, Ordinance 5869, passed in October 2025, does provide an avenue for those who forget to apply for the program preceding the December 31st deadline. And this chart shows that we have 30 of these late-filed exemptions for the current fiscal year, and already we have 28 for the new fiscal year. Keep in mind, the goal is zero. We don't want people to be late filed, but it does show that the...the program is working for some people. And our certification is adjusted 400,000 for these late-filed exemptions, which also includes the Owner-Occupied class for late filers there as well. So, this is page 35 of your handout, and this is regarding the wildfire property tax waivers. So, Ordinance 5913 passed this current fiscal year extends real property tax relief for properties impacted by the August 2023 wildfires as long as occupancy is prevented by public infrastructure or utility issues, the property was completely destroyed and remains vacant, or a building permit has been issued, but it has not been finalized. So, about 1,300 properties in this impacted area are back on the tax rolls for this fiscal year, and most of these properties weren't destroyed but had limited access due to, you know, roads being closed or utility issues, and they're accounting for \$7.4 million in revenue this year. And this concludes my presentation. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, Members, then at this time, I'm going to open up public testimony. Do we have anybody signed up?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair, we have two testifiers signed up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, if you're sign-up...testifiers wanting to provide testimony, you should sign up with Staff and join the online meeting via Teams link or call in the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the departments scheduled for today. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the meeting [sic] is being called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone...star-5 to raise and lower your hand, star-6 is to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers signed up or raised their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand. Once your name is added, Staff will then call the name you're logged in under...the last four digits of your phone number when your time is called to testify. At this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to...as anonymous. If you wish to testify anonymously, if you're in person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes

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

April 20, 2026

per item, and if you're not done, I'll give you another 30 seconds. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Once you're done testifying or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view your [sic] meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. We'll now call on testifiers wishing to testify. Staff, please call up the testifiers.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The first testifier is Jeff Ueoka, to be followed by Travis Liggett.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wait. Before you testify, Member Rawlins-Fernandez has joined us. Let us welcome her.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, mai Molokai Nui a Hina. I'm at my private residence alone. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office. And sorry, I...I was on, I just had my...my video off during the presentation. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Welcome. All right. You can tell us about your canoe paddling later. We heard about it from Member Paltin. Congratulations. All right. Mr. Ueoka?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. UEOKA: Oh, thank you, Chair. Good morning. I'll try to keep it brief. I know you guys are busy this week. I have a proposal. I'm not sure if the handout came out yet, but this came to me after the Mayor's budget was already submitted to the Council, and it's a one-acre piece on 82 Kanani Road in Kihei, up the street from Cove Beach. It's approximately an acre. It's zoned Apartment, it's proposed use, and has all the permits, SMA, has a water meter, everything, 32 units, apartment building with an elevator, 66 parking stalls, about 13 storage areas, total living area is about 25,686 square feet, total storage square foot is about 1,702, give or take. So, it has all the permits. It's ready to go. My clients approached me a couple of weeks ago, and they said, hey, we're wrapping up our building permits. We're involved in a bunch of other projects. We may not want to build this ourselves. Would the County be interested? And I said, sounds interesting. It was too late to make it into the Mayor's budget, but I know, you know, time is of the essence. Speed is important to everyone to get affordable housing. Proposal is for the Council to purchase this...or I'm sorry, the County to purchase this piece of land. Put a...could go out to bid pretty quickly for construction. You could potentially build the houses in a year or two. So, again, they bought the property in 2019. They applied for the new building permits for it because the old...prior owner just kind of couldn't...couldn't see it through. They applied for new permits in '22, and they expected to start the project in 2024. 2024 came and went. They still didn't have permits. Fast forward to a few weeks...a couple weeks ago, actually, their permits were finally in those final stages. But they've...since then, they weren't just sitting on this one project the whole time, they've moved on to other

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

April 20, 2026

projects. So, we would ask for an appropriation in the budget to allow the Mayor's Office to purchase this, or the...I guess the Department of Finance, Director Martin would be the negotiator per 3.44, and work with the Administration to get this moving. There would be a few more steps. Obviously, the negotiation would have to enter into a PSA with the County to purchase. There'd be...need to be an acquisition reso, so the Council would have another shot at this. At some point, construction funding would need to be budgeted. I'd assume it would probably be bond funding. Councilmember Johnson, I think it was in 2022, Bill 61 made it so that you could bond the project, and you could pay the debt service through the Affordable Housing Fund. And in this case, this is different from a lot of the other projects, as the County would own the land and own the building, so it'd be bondable, in...at least in my...my understanding. But I could be wrong. There's probably a lot of details I don't know. So, then the County could do whatever it wanted. It could rent it super low, could rent it high. Or actually, if you're using Affordable Housing Fund to pay the bond, so never mind. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, that was a lot of words. Did you say if it's in the SMA or the SLR-XA?

MR. UEOKA: It's in the SMA. It is...well, I didn't check, but it shouldn't be in the SLR-XA, because it's like a couple blocks up from South Kihei Road on Kanani...Kanani Road. I think...I have like a little handout. I don't know if it got to you guys, but you can kind of see, it's...it's far away from the water.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And you don't want to say like publicly what they want for it?

MR. UEOKA: Oh... . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I mean --

MR. UEOKA: And if...it's...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if that's how it is.

MR. UEOKA: It's probably a high number. I wrote on here 8.62. It's subject to appraisal and negotiation, of course, per Chapter 3.44, but that's the...the starting point, I guess.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the permits are based on the plans that they had. So, if somebody...or the County purchased it, they would have to follow those plans?

MR. UEOKA: Yes. The...yes, you could probably do minor changes. And the big change would probably be the finishes in the units. Like if you're making ultra luxury, you put ultra luxury finishes, you know. And...

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know the average square foot per unit?

MR. UEOKA: The whole thing is 25,686. So, if you divide that by 32, you're probably better at math than me, but that would be the average square. It's all two bedrooms. I think the lowest is like 6 something and the biggest are like 900 something for the plans.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. UEOKA: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have your handout for everybody?

MR. UEOKA: I...I gave it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You gave it?

MR. UEOKA: -- to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. UEOKA: Earlier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We will get it then. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Mr. Ueoka, so on Kanani Street, so above South Kihei Road and below the highway?

MR. UEOKA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Can you tell us who was the original developer?

MR. UEOKA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MR. UEOKA: I don't know. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Oh, okay. You don't know. And...but you do know that it was...the Change in Zoning was not using any of like a 201H or any of the affordable housing mechanisms?

MR. UEOKA: That's my understanding. This was a market project, and the affordable housing requirement was satisfied through credits because it was never...it never went through like an entitlement process. It's been A-2 zoned, the piece...the parcel.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, through credits from where?

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

April 20, 2026

MR. UEOKA: I don't know. That, I don't know either. Before my guys got it. . . .*(laughing)*. .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, you said it's in the SMA. So, did they get their SMA permit?

MR. UEOKA: Oh, yeah. So, they have building permits. So, all the other permits are done already. So, the beauty of this project for the County would be this is pretty much as close to shovel ready as you'll get.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, sounds like it. Okay. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Mr. Ueoka. The plans, are they ADA compliant?

MR. UEOKA: Oh, I'm not sure. I would have to check.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Because when we got to do something, got to be ADA compliant.

MR. UEOKA: Get...there's an elevator. So, I think that makes things a little easier there.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. UEOKA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then at 1 point...or 8.62, as you said, and then 32 units, that comes out to like 269 per unit is basically what we're buying.

MR. UEOKA: For land costs --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hypothetically.

MR. UEOKA: -- you still...you still got to go up, go vertical.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, we got to go vertical, but okay. That's the land cost per unit. Okay.

MR. UEOKA: Yeah.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you. Thanks for waiting.

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

April 20, 2026

MR. UEOKA: Good luck, guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other testifiers?

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

MR. LIGGETT: Good morning, Committee Chair, Councilmembers. Chair Lee, I just love that shade of orange. It reminds me of Council Chair's unique shade of orange. So beautiful. But I'm here to just speak a little bit more about my proposed amendment that I just refiled. And it's pretty simple. So, I am proposing that effectively someone introduce this amendment, which would effectively be a referendum on adopting a solution to the stringent total nitrogen requirements of the Lahaina NPDES permit and basically defunding the fight to suspend those limits because very many industries would like to see a precedent to effectively defang that decision. Also, allow the MVA regional system to be funded by philanthropy. There have been some concerns about being able to follow simple rules with government procurement that I witnessed firsthand. And I have an actionable plan to actually fund that entire project through philanthropy that I am pursuing. And furthermore, just a quick number. So, I have been having treatment for an infectious process that emerged after a wastewater plant tour. And just the treatments for IVIG...retail, out-of-pocket, ten treatments, 15,000 per treatment is about \$150,000. And I have a UIPA response that that is right in line for the power consumption for UV at a major plant. So, I just think it makes sense. And also, we don't know who's going to be Mayor in January. And if there's no funding to advance UV at the Kahului facility--and by the way, two thumbs up for advancing the design in Kihei--but if there's no budget item to fund design for the Kihei...or I'm sorry, the Kahului facility in January, it doesn't matter who's Mayor in January. No one will be able to do that work until Fiscal Year 2028. So, I just want to keep the options open for whoever may be Mayor who may actually have a different disposition and want to advance that work because it's just a lot of liability to not have disinfection happening. And it's just really smart. And it's just an elegant solution. You actually meet the requirements of the NPDES decision. You advance disinfection. And I think a lot of people agree that these private projects should be on private funding. And gosh, wouldn't it be cool to just say, wow, this budget amendment is effectively a referendum on adopting a solution, which is what everybody wants to those stringent requirements in the Supreme Court decision, instead of just funding lawyers to try to suspend the limits. Because that is basically a handout to industries that say don't want to see that Supreme Court decision fully upheld. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, boy, I've worked hard on this. It's delivered with love. It's an elegant solution. It's the limu. It's exactly what nature does with excess nutrients in surface waters. And the idea is this...you're either going to get a problematic limu bloom in the ocean with problem...with excess nutrients, or it's like a controlled burn on the 'āina. So, thank you so much for your hard work. And good luck finishing the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Liggett? Seeing none. Thank you.

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

April 20, 2026

MR. LIGGETT: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next individual signed up to testify is Mike Reyes, to be followed by Christopher Salem.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Mr. Reyes.

MR. REYES: Good morning, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. My name is Mike Reyes. I'm the Executive Director for Mālama Haleakalā Foundation. And I'm testifying today in support of Councilmember Johnson's Nāulu Cloud revival budget priority. Specifically, we're proposing a large-scale project on Kaonoulu Ranch to control invasive species, mainly black wattle, which has just completely taken over 107 acres. We want to remove that wattle and plant 462 native koa trees. We feel that this is obviously in support of re-establishing native forest and...and specifically that cloud bridge that we'd like to see reconnect all the way over to Kaho'olawe. And I guess I'll...I'll keep it short and sweet unless anybody has any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for...Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Reyes. Is there any protections on those trees that they wouldn't be used for any other purpose? Like I mean, I know you use koa trees for canoes and other things, but is there protections that they would not be cut?

MR. REYES: Thank you for your...your question, Councilmember. I believe the trees would be intended as like a silviculture. So, it would be an agricultural practice. I think typically, trees wouldn't be like even large enough to be harvested for like 40 years at the earliest. And so, it would be...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I understand. I just was wondering if there's any kind of, you know, I don't know, contract or something like where it wouldn't be used like that, like they would stay in the ground and do what they're supposed to do. Like on paper --

MR. REYES: I see.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because that's American style, right? You can get a don't cut this down and use it for a canoe or something else.

MR. REYES: I mean, I appreciate that. I can...I'm sure we can integrate that into the project to ensure that, you know, any koa trees that are planted are...remain for...until they're like a mature koa tree.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I kind of want them to remain in perpetuity, not when they're a mature koa tree be cut down. Like...because you said the purpose is to

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

April 20, 2026

restore the Nāulu Cloud Bridge. How does cutting down a mature koa tree then restore the Nāulu Cloud Bridge?

MR. REYES: So, I mean, I should say that at no point have we like discussed...or Kaonoulu Ranch has not, you know, in any way stated that their intention is to cut down trees, or for this to be a money-making operation in any way. I think that the intent was just to replace an invasive, highly flammable stand of...of wattle with native forest.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I...I get that, which...I mean, I don't know if I'll be around here in 40 years or anyone, but we would like the trees to be around indefinitely. If you were doing this project with your own personal funds, then, you know, in 40 years or however many years, you can do whatever you want. But being that this is a taxpayer funds for a public purpose, and the public purpose is the Nāulu Cloud Bridge, to me, I would like it to be there in perpetuity. You know what I'm saying?

MR. REYES: Absolutely, and I think it's a great point. And I would...I think that we could work with the landowner to ensure that...that that agreement is recorded.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more questions for Mr. Reyes? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Oh, sorry. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Hi, Mr. Reyes. How many acres of black wattle?

MR. REYES: Thank you for your question, Councilmember. It's 107 acres.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Wow, that's a huge impact. What's the plan of doing with the black wattles? Just curious. And is that part of the project?

MR. REYES: So, it'd probably be...that is part of the project, absolutely. So, it would...it would likely be...the control mechanism would be like a masticator on...like an excavator with a masticating head to just literally remove...like, you know, grind down the wattle. What we don't want to do is expose the soils. And so, by just mulching those trees in place, we ensure that we're not going to like lose a bunch of soil during a stormwater event.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Sounds well thought out. Thank you, sir.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more questions for Mr. Reyes? Seeing none. Thank you very much for being here. And we'll look --

MR. REYES: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- forward to hearing more from Member Johnson. Next testifier.

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

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

April 20, 2026

MR. SALEM: Good morning, Chair and Members of the Maui County Council. Just want to verify the microphone is on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. SALEM: Okay. My budget testimony this morning speaks to the February 2026 Fraud Risk Assessment prepared by Spire Hawai'i LLP and presented to the County Auditor and the Maui County Council. While that report identifies general concerns regarding fraud risk, internal controls, and the need for "a Countywide framework," it fails to address the central issue before this Council. Who currently holds the responsibility for fraud oversight under the Maui County Charter? And why have those existing authorities not been performed upon and the duties to protect the County residents? The report repeatedly references jurisdictional overlaps and conflicts in the absence of a Countywide process. The Charter already establishes three separate oversight powers and authorities relevant to fraud and misconduct by County (*phonetic*) officials. First, under the Charter, this Council holds the power and duty to investigate violations of Maui County --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it...

MR. SALEM: -- of County laws and ordinances. The Maui County Council has the authority to investigate the actions of the Administration, require production of records, and determine whether director decisions were made in accordance with adopted County laws. Where the violations are found, the power provides for penalties, including fines and where appropriate, even imprisonment. Second, the Office of the County Auditor, established by the County Charter Section 3-9.2, has the same duty and powers to conduct investigations related to the County's finances. The Auditor is required to report any potential instances or allegations of fraud. Third, the Cost of Government Commission, under Charter 3-9.3 and 13-2, has the power and duty to study and investigate organizations. Again, subpoena powers, all the powers necessary to address fraud. In other words, the Charter provides overlapping oversight authority through this Council, the County Auditor, and the Cost of Government Commission. The Spire report's troubling. Instead of identifying which of these Charter authorities repeatedly failed to act, the report shifts to discussion towards generalized future process reform. I'm going to shift to a coaching metaphor. You know, everybody loves to go out and play with the balls or control the money like this Council is currently doing and hear all the good things that that provides. But, you know, one of the obligations of being the head of a...head coach of a program is that a lot of times, discipline comes into play. And a lot of times, parents come into play, putting demands upon us as coaches. That stuff is no fun, but it is my duty as a head coach and has been for over 30 years. It is your duty as a Council, all the way from Pat Wong to Moana Lutey's statements about no knowledge of SMA permits and gambling earnings and all of this evidence that's been brought . . .(*timer sounds*) . . . to this Council over the last 30 years. I'll wrap it up. Not once has this Council ever adopted a formal investigation. And we had that chance with a

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

April 20, 2026

stop work order on Greg Brown, but that was too expensive. But it's easier to spend a million dollars on litigation than 92 on --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Salem --

MR. SALEM: -- an investigation. I'll wrap it up. The bottom line...it is the responsibility of this Council to put an end to all this litigious nonsense.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. SALEM: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions? Okay. Thank you very much. No questions.

MR. SALEM: Obviously.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

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

MR. LAW: Aloha ka'a o ke kalana. Aloha Pō'akahi. Thanks for everybody being here that can be here on time on Monday morning. Ohayou, Chair Kashiwa Sugimura. Oh, okay. Let me start with a good point. Welina. That's the good...I'm going to start with the good news today. A greeting of affection, similar to aloha, a salutation in a letter. Okay. So, I'm glad we're still on the...the budget thing. And the...the...thank you, Department, for being here. I was in the lobby listening to some of it. All that banking stuff, I don't really...it's like way over my head. So, I just catch like little pieces of pennies from heaven there. And I think we're talking about the property taxes. And I'm wondering, I hope it's not just my kuleana to watch the churches because they're supposed to be helping the communities. And I apologize for that remark about your friend there, Alan Morris . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please stop.

MR. LAW: Yeah, okay. I was just...okay. Do you want me to stop now? All right. I think you guys got the message. We need to pry into them churches a little bit more. Make sure we get some kind of like hotline to the Mayor's Office when we see things where they're detrimental to society. And nine out of ten...I'll standard disclaimer, nine out of ten people goes to church is good, but it's hard finding the one in there. You look for the money, usually.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Sanoe Ka'aihue on Teams.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Oh, good morning, Councilmembers.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Hopefully you all can hear me all right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. KA'AIHUE: I wasn't quite sure I would testify today, but, you know, just kind of wanted to sort of kick it off for some of the nonprofits. And just want to give my gratitude for the \$257,500 that are a line item for our shelter grant. And, you know, I...I'm...I'm praying that you guys make really great decisions, which I know you guys will, on where monies get spent and where monies get allocated. For myself...and I know one of the priorities for Councilmember Johnson is that, you know, we're...we're looking towards the future, not just we're going to shelter people, but what we're looking for is...is places that families can go to once they transition out of shelter. So, the...the length of stay for most families is 120 days, but what we've been seeing over the past year or two has been that families have been staying for much longer. And don't tell DHS, but, you know, we....we're kind of pushing the boundaries with some of that. And, you know, we're grateful too, because we don't want families to end up on the street. And so, we are hoping that the County will get on board with us being able to secure houses, scattered housing sites, to be able to house our women after they leave shelter. Because the success rate of them really depends on if they can get stable housing. And so, that, I know, has been a long-term goal for myself. It's my five-year plan, kind of. And so, I am hopeful that the County will come together and figure something out. I know Councilmember Johnson, I just want to thank you, mahalo you so much for...for thinking of Women Helping Women in this whole scheme of things. So, domestic violence survivors do oftentimes get excluded from some of the funding sources in a way. And I know I've worked with some of you Councilmembers kind of one-to-one and helped...you know, you guys have been advocating for survivors and getting them into safe shelter, which I'm more than happy to put people into shelter, but it's the last place that they want to be. And so, I want to be sure that, you know, we can secure houses in...in different...on different islands. We have...we have an office on Lānaʻi. We have one, you know, that we're...Keani, I hope we can put one somewhere on your island because you have a lot of need there for survivors. And my hope is that, you know, we can offer that to...to the County as well. And I'm willing to work in whatever that looks like. And before I end, I just want to say that this week is National Crime Victim Rights Week. So, if you don't know, Wednesday, we're doing a sign waving. It's going to be downstairs, right, from you guys. So, come show up, 4:30, 5:00, and we'll be there and we can talk story more. So, I'm open to conversation. Thank you, folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Miss...Member Cook has a question, then Member Johnson.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha. Thank you for coming and sharing that this morning and also for your work. Help us with what type and size accommodations do you feel, from

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

April 20, 2026

your experience, would be appropriate to move from temporary to permanent? Is an apartment appropriate and work? A single-family residence is required? And...because that...that's the big picture. That's something that I need your help with to understand what's appropriate. I say appropriate --

MS. KA'AIHUE: Yeah. So, I think any...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- some...something that would --

MS. KA'AIHUE: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- actually work long-term. I'm sorry to interrupt you.

MS. KA'AIHUE: No, that's wonderful, yeah. So, the proposal that we have sort of is, we want this to just be transitional, right? So, it's not necessarily a permanent housing solution, but we want that to be anywhere from 18 months to 2 years. If you guys are familiar with the Maui Farm's program, we work really closely with them, and they have a similar setup. However, they have the luxury of having these homes. But Member Cook, anything from apartments to single-family homes would be absolutely appreciated. I think at this point, we're just looking for places for people to be that is not on the street.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Sanoe. Thank you for coming out and testifying. And thank you for all that you do. I really appreciate it. You know, I wanted to ask you, and you mentioned a little bit in your testimony, can you speak to the need? You said like Molokai being a need...a needed area. Are there any other districts that are high need, if you could speak to that?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Oh, yeah. I mean, we see folks from Hāna. We see folks from Kīhei, lots from Lahaina. And, you know, just pretty much from every single space, every single district really, you know, needs that assistance. And trust me, like if we could pick up every single piece of property, we would. I think, you know, it...it kind of just is everywhere. And the stigma behind us providing rental assistance for folks that are getting into housing is pretty astronomical depending on the landlord and what kind of, you know, things that they're thinking about when they think of a domestic violence survivor.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, so like that's impor...I didn't know that, that some of the landlords won't take the folks because of the stigma. That's...that's a new conundrum we're in. Okay. So, I'm sure you could probably speak to this, but post-fire, post-COVID, post...and with this affordability that we're all struggling with, is your institution...is your nonprofit struggling? Is there more need than you guys have

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

April 20, 2026

capacity for? Is there just not enough rooms for these folks? Is...layering of these issues, I wonder how it's affecting you guys.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Well, I mean, you know, everybody...as a shelter program, we have to adhere to those time frames, right? So, it's 90 to 120 days by DHS' standards. And for us, we will...I won't...I will not push somebody on the street because they're still in trauma, still in danger. And, you know, we'll...we'll advocate for them to stay much longer. But the average right now, and I think I said it prior too, is, you know, 180 days, even plus. We've had somebody that we held on to for nearly a year over last year because she couldn't find safe, stable housing, and not for lack of trying.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. KA'AIHUE: She...she absolutely did all the things and just couldn't connect...money-wise, salary-wise, she could not make that connection.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Huge need and very little options. Thank you so much for your response. Thank you, Chair. No further question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Sanoe? Okay. No further questions, but I want to thank you for helping when I reached out to you kind of in distress, not knowing what to do, and you directed. Thank you very much for your assistance. All right.

MS. KA'AIHUE: I'm grateful. Pass along my cell phone number . . .*(laughing)*. . . to you guys only, not anybody else.

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

MS. KA'AIHUE: All right, guys. Take care.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other testifiers?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, with your permission, I'd like to close public testimony and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Very good. So, now, questions for RPT. I'm going to start with two rounds of questions, three minutes for first round, and then two minutes for the second round. And if Members need any calculations or related information from Finance, they need to get their request to Staff by 9:00 a.m....9:00 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 21st. Thank you. So, at this moment, I want to start off with Member Batangan and go down the row. Next would be Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I actually don't have any questions at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I have a few, but not quite organized. One of the things that stood out for me was that...that page on revenue sources. What page was that?

MS. MARTIN: Page 4.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Of the first or the second one?

MS. MARTIN: Second one.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The second one. Okay. Anyway, I don't really need to see it, but I just wanted people to have a reference. I thought that was somewhat misleading when you mentioned that 55 percent of real property taxes...well, you mentioned that a large percentage of the revenue sources comes from the real property tax, right? Okay. What...what percentage was that?

MS. MARTIN: About 41 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 41 percent. Okay. I think it's important for people to know that it's much more if you don't count all the revenue sources because a lot of revenue sources are restricted. So, it's not like a gener...like real property is not restricted. So, it's just like a general fund, right? Because I just want everybody to know the significance of the real property taxes and what's generated there. Because if you just say revenue sources, because you're including fuel and franchise taxes, interfund transfers, charges for current services, which a lot of times have restrictions because it's earmarked for positions and stuff like that. So, when you talk about money, revenue sources, and you talk about general revenue sources, that accounts for like, what, 80 percent? 70 percent? What do you think?

MS. MARTIN: Yes, you are correct. And we...we could add that, actually, next year...or if you wanted a chart like that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think it would be useful.

MS. MARTIN: But it is...yeah.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think because people might think, oh, we have a lot of money. No, we don't. No, we can't use the Fuel Tax for affordable housing. You know what I'm saying? And...and the rates and fees, like fees for water, and people don't realize that's only for Water. So, if you had something like that, then people could understand who's contributing to the General Fund. And so, that was one issue. And then the other thing . . .(timer sounds). . . and I ran out of time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director Martin. On the appeal statistics, I was...it looks like the total is like about 2 million or so less than last year, but the Hotel and Resort category went up. Do you know the reason? Could you speculate a reason why? Certain ones seem to have gone up and some have gone down.

MS. MARTIN: Well, I think, you know, this year, we have a lower number of appeals, and the higher --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The rate.

MS. MARTIN: -- the rate tax classifications, we get more appeals. So, you know, the hotels have consistently filed appeals the last few years, and we do have our litigated claims chart in here. But I think the reason why the number of appeals went down this year is we had less TVR/STRH appeals. And as you could see in the certification, their...their values declined a bit this year, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, you know, the class count by value and Council district, do you ever do it for Apartment class? Like on page 40, you have it for Non-Owner-Occupied, and then I think Owner-Occupied, TVR/STRH, Long-Term Rental, Commercialized Residential. But I don't see, like, you know, Agriculture, Industrial, or Apartment.

MS. MARTIN: Is that something that you would be interested in?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe. Maybe.

MS. MARTIN: Having it for each class?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...kind of. Just, you know, to get the full picture of the spread and all like that. At least once, because it seems like it's the same ones every year, and it's good for comparison. But like maybe just one time, I would like to see the spread and what we're dealing with. And...and to go back to the other one, I just wanted to get that in before my time ran out, but the Hotel/Resort, the appeals that you were talking about over, it's been like three to maybe since COVID before that, were they annual appealers, the Hotel/Resort class?

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MARTIN: When I'm looking at the litigated claims, it looks like since assessment year '22, which would be Fiscal '23.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, like kind of COVID and then the fire and stuff like that. Do the Hotel/Resort class usually prevail on their appeals?

MS. MARTIN: So, the appeals . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . for the prior years are in Tax Appeal Court, and there hasn't been any movement on them. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No decision?

MS. MARTIN: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, and then --

MS. MARTIN: They haven't presented anything.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- just to...if...if we are to win the appeal, then it goes into like a general fund as like some sort of Carryover/Savings or something?

MS. MARTIN: So, for the prior years, they're sitting in like a trust and agency account, 100 percent of the taxes on appeal. So, yes, if they were resolved in our favor, that money would go into the revenue for the current year as Carryover/Savings. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: General Fund.

MS. MARTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting. Next. Okay. Second round, I come back to you, I think. Member Johnson, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Department, for joining us today. A lot of information to digest here, but I...I know this has come up before, but I want...I'm curious about some of the exemptions. You mentioned the church is exempt, the...the credit union is exempt. Is it...how do you do that in regards to...like say, just for example, credit union? If the land is owned by someone else, but the credit union's renting, do they get that tax break?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? So, I think, you know, there's credit unions in like malls, for example.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. MARTIN: And they apply for the exemption and so carve out that portion of the mall assessment, and you exempt that. So, in other words, the whole parcel wouldn't be exempted.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MARTIN: If they occupied 1 percent of the property, they would get a 1 percent discount.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Who does that? The credit union does that? Because how would that benefit them? They're not...they're renting, they're not...does that go...I mean, who...

MS. MARTIN: So, generally, the credit union files, you know, with the approval from the owner --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I see.

MS. MARTIN: -- and they work it out between them.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I see.

MS. MARTIN: It might not just be a credit union, it could be the County of Maui --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. MARTIN: -- it could be a nonprofit, so...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That makes sense. All right. And then the...the other question is, you know, I saw the churches, everybody...you know, we often hear about churches not doing that, but there are churches that are for-profit. Does that make a difference? King's Cathedral is a for-profit church.

MS. MARTIN: Well, if...if they're filing, it's under the nonprofit section of...of the Code, so...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Every time I go to King's Cathedral, they mention that we're a for-profit church, so we pay taxes, so we have a say. And for me, I'm thinking of an income tax, or...you know, saying that is different. You know, there's so many types of taxes. So, for property taxes, a for-profit church is exempt?

MS. MARTIN: I would have to look at their application --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: -- and we can do compliance. So, if there's concerns, you can contact --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: -- the assessment section.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks for that. Thank you, Chair. No further questions.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's very interesting. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director Martin. Mahalo for your presentation. So, I was looking at the specifics per island, and I saw that for Non-Owner-Occupied, last...or the count change is 22 less PITTs (*phonetic*) or counts, and then two less...oh, is that three? Eight. Eight less TVR/STRH classified properties, two more Long-Term Rental. Sorry, my head is this way, because the sheet is opposite, or sideways.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What page are you on?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then...I'm on page 36, if you're looking at the PDF. But if you're looking at the page number, it's 13, after all the certified numbers. It's the revenue by district for Molokai. And so, there's 27 more Owner-Occupied properties, which is really exciting for me. Like that's really cool. Which is part of the intention of, you know, designing the property tax the way we did. But then there is two less properties. Would you be able to explain why there's two less properties? If it was demolished or something?

MS. MARTIN: So, I can't say specifically, but reasons for parcel counts include dropped parcels, maybe like a consolidation, or maybe someone canceled a condominium, or it could be that something was, you know, dedicated to the County. So, there's a number of reasons why there's a change in parcel count. It doesn't happen too often, but there is...every year we lose a few parcels for various reasons.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Yeah. Because even if the structure itself was demolished, the land itself would still be taxed.

MS. MARTIN: Yes. Another reason why the parcel count would be acquisition by government too, because it would go from taxable to nontaxable.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. That...so, when it goes...so this...the totals are only properties that are...are taxable. So, this would exclude government-owned properties and nonprofits that are not taxed? . . .(*timer sounds*). . .

MS. MARTIN: It...it excludes government, which pay zero tax, but nonprofits that pay minimum tax are included in the counts.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right, right. They pay minimum tax, not zero tax. Okay. Mahalo for those clarifications. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director, for being here today and all of this work. Following up on the question about appeals to the different categories, Non-Owner-Occupied and STRs are the...the largest ones. So, the funds...if 50 percent of the appeal is won by the County in the County's favor, and the

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

April 20, 2026

other 50 percent of appeal was in the...the taxpayer's favor, then that amount of taxation would show up in the next year as Carryover/Savings?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. MARTIN: Chair? Okay. I'm going to ask you to refer to page 30.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Cool. Got it.

MS. MARTIN: Okay. So, it's kind of a moving target, but the first level of appeal is Board of Review. And we try to finish our Board of Review appeals during the current fiscal year. And so, if we prevail in more than 50 percent of evaluation on appeal, that is additional revenues. Then in some cases, so after you...if you lost your Board of Review appeal, you could move on to Tax Appeal Court, right? And then...so the money would go back into the trust and agency litigated claims account, and then it would be...be held there until the appeal is resolved, which would most likely be in the following fiscal years. And then at that point in time, it just goes into the General Fund as...again, as additional revenue. But in that case, it's...it's, you know, savings.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for that clarification. Is there...could you give a ballpark idea of the percentage of appeals that go into that second, more-reviewed process? And there again...

MS. MARTIN: I'm flipping through pages. It's in here. Oh, I see it. On page 39 is the number of parcels that are in that Tax Appeal Court.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then the appeal funds is the value of the taxation that's pending?

MS. MARTIN: Yes. Those are taxes that have been paid but are still under appeal.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for the clarification. That's all my . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . questions for now, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I don't necessarily have questions on this book just yet. It's a lot of information to digest. But for our statistics friend, on page 17, where we see the net taxable values, in '16...Fiscal Years '16 to '17, we were at 44 billion. This year, as you just said, we're at 83 billion. So, if this trend continues, in about ten years, are we going to be at \$163 billion worth of property value?

MS. MARTIN: So, if you...if you spread that chart over, you know, 30 years, you could see that values, you know, go --

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sure.

MS. MARTIN: -- up and down. But we have been in a long period of...of --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Incline.

MS. MARTIN: -- stable to increasing.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Right.

MS. MARTIN: You know, over my, I guess, 40-year career, this is the longest steady upward trend that I’ve witnessed. But as Alice and...knows, that there are years where the values do go down.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I haven’t seen that yet. And it feels like almost we’re getting to the point. And this is not...this is just an everything issue. But, you know, in the ’20s in Germany, you needed a wheelbarrow to buy cash. And you just...like it was cheaper to just burn your money than it was to like buy firewood. And looking at these numbers, it feels fake even, you know, considering how much money we’re dealing with. Do you foresee a downward trend anytime soon? Like I’ll give you a real-life scenario, yesterday...or Saturday rather, where me and my husband and my friend are driving in Maui uplands. And as you folks know, my husband is significantly older than me. And he was telling me when he was young and these were being built, they were being sold for like \$40,000 and they couldn’t really get rid of it. Apparently, they used to hold parties in there. And now there’s a home in there being sold for like 1.8, 1.2 million. So, my friend and I were classmates. We’re talking about how the best time for us to have bought property when we was like five, which I don’t want for my children because that means they’re already at a disadvantage being eight. So, do you think we’re going to see some sort of downward trend anytime soon so that we can give people hope that eventually they can maybe own property here? My classmates and my children? And I know your daughter has one, and they had to go through all the things that they went through. So, what are we looking at in the future?

MS. MARTIN: Well, nobody can predict, you know, the future. So, we do lag, you know, like I said, our sales go up to June 2025. But just on my own street --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: -- based upon the sales that . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I’ve had --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Right.

MS. MARTIN: -- it seems to be stable right now.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MARTIN: And I would...I would remind all of you is that's why we have our tax relief programs --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, yeah. For sure.

MS. MARTIN: -- and we have Circuit Breaker. And also, that is why our Affordable Housing Program is so important because, you know, you are able to buy in a down market, provided you aren't one of the people who've lost your job. So, I think it's important that we continue investing in that sector --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Me too.

MS. MARTIN: -- of our economy.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Me too. Thank you so much for that. I'm curious to see what's going to happen with our national economy, and if we suffer a recession, and what that's going to look like for all of us. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Director, for the presentation. In your opening comments, and you mentioned that there was a...I think you said a delta. What's the...the projected...what is...what is the projected difference and the actuals?

MS. MARTIN: Yeah, it's...it's not very large. It was 100...using the Mayor's budget and what we have now, there is a \$156,548 additional revenue. So, I would call that pretty flat. And --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: -- just for the record, that wasn't because of any great prediction that we do. Sometimes it's high, sometimes it's low. And this year, it happened to be almost exact.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Okay. Thank you for that. And then I was curious in a previous email, did...or on what page can we find the...the number of properties in each of the different tiers? Is that in the report?

MS. MARTIN: Well, there's several different versions of that. I'm not sure if you were talking about the...we have the value bands starting at page 40. But then in summary, which is usually the chart that I refer to throughout the year would be on page 3, where it shows all the classes and the number of parcels.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. I'll check. Thank you, Chair.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, thank you very much. The...on page number 36 of, I guess, the second...second section, Real Property Assessment Division, Wildfire Structure Estimates. And here, it's very interesting because it actually shows dwelling count destroyed and how many have been rebuilt. I am looking at like Commercial. Well, mostly everything has zero except for Non-Owner-Occupied has 30, and Owner-Occupied is 105. So, can you speak about the Non-Owner-Occupied rebuilt dwelling? It says 30.

MS. MARTIN: I don't have...that would be parcels that don't have the home exemption. So, with that small number we could come up with a list, but I don't have a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

MS. MARTIN: -- list of what properties there are.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I just thought that's kind of interesting considering, you know, what our focus has been, I thought. And yeah, Commercial Residential [*sic*], zero for, you know, dwelling counts. There's a lot more that we need to do. And then for Upcountry, it's concerning because there's only four units that you have identified. So, how do you get to these numbers? So, once a property is damaged, and then they build it, they actually are able to occupy it, and somehow that communication goes to RPT? How do you...

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, we receive building permits, and then we track the building permits to completion. And then when it's completed, we value it in our system.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you...you know at what point then that you need to send them a real property tax assessment bill, and somehow that communication happens within the Administration?

MS. MARTIN: So, we assess as of January 1, and then if...so, they were completed by January 1. We sent them an assessment notice on March 15, and then if...if for some reason they felt that that wasn't correct, they can come to us. So, they have between March 15 and April 9 to confer with us. And then right now we've, you know, frozen our...our values for certification. But if, you know, you don't feel that your assessment is correct, it's...behooves you to contact our office to make sure that it's not a mistake.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, according to this, dwelling count destroyed is 2,145. Value is 651 million. And it's Upcountry as well as West Maui. . . .(*timer sounds*). . . And I'll just finish this. Dwelling count is 142, which is rebuilt, and value count is 91 million...I'm sorry, gross assessed improved value is 91 million.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for that. Yes.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you clarify when they say dwelling count, it's not the same as unit count?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Real Property Tax, can you answer that? I'm just reading what the chart says.

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. So, we're on page 36. So, we did count it as a dwelling count. So, if it was one parcel and had two dwellings, it would be counted as two.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, like Lahaina Roads reopened after initially being closed after the fire. Would that count?

MS. MARTIN: So, I don't think they were counted as destroyed, but they are part of those parcels that are back being assessed for January 1, 2026. So, they're on the tax roll for this year. So, they weren't destroyed, but they were exempt because they weren't occupiable or accessible. But...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Like for something like Opukea that's rebuilding the entirety of the building, would each unit be counted under the dwelling count?

MS. MARTIN: So, Opukea is condominiumized. So, each unit...be one parcel and one building.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One parcel per building.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And one building.

MS. MARTIN: No. Okay. I said that wrong. Okay. So, it would be...I'm just going to make a number. So, it's one building, but maybe 50 units. So, that...they have 50 parcels --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: -- because they've been condominiumized. And then it would be 50 dwellings because it's only one dwelling unit per CPR per...per TMK.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you had an apartment that wasn't condominiumized, would that count as just one?

MS. MARTIN: So, apartment would be one parcel and, you know, it might be 100 units.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, one dwelling count?

MS. MARTIN: It's one building. I think if you go down...down below...let me see here. There's the middle of the page. So, for Apartments, you can see...so the...the nontaxable would be your like affordable, right? So, you have 10 parcels, but you

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

April 20, 2026

have 531 units. And then taxable is 41 parcels and 70 units. So, we aren't calling them dwellings, we're calling them units.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, realistically, actually, 743 units were rebuilt?

MS. MARTIN: So, are you referring to the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Because what Member Sugimura was saying is 142 were rebuilt. But if you include the 601 units in the Apartments that were rebuilt, then...right? Or are those apartments not rebuilt?

MS. MARTIN: I don't think we have any that are considered rebuilt in Apartments. I think Kūpu'ohi is probably coming close.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, but people are living in Kūpu'ohi...89 units completely destroyed, already inhabited.

MS. MARTIN: On January 1?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

MS. MARTIN: Well, we'll...we'll check, but again, that's nontaxable. They just pay the minimum tax. So...but I guess we could...we don't have...like that middle chart isn't the same as the chart above. So, if you needed more detail in this middle chart.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, maybe we can send a question because this is kind of going on.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, because 142 seems low when I know 89 households already moved into Kūpu'ohi.

MS. MARTIN: Oh yeah, so that's not included in the 142, right? The apartments are in the chart below.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I'm --

MS. MARTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- just saying it was made to sound like only 142 have been completed. But at least 89 families moved into Kūpu'ohi. And then like Opukea is coming up right now. Lahaina Roads got re-moved into. So, this data sheet wouldn't be reflective of the recovery efforts, it's just taxation purposes. It wouldn't be right to say, oh, 142 are rebuilt. That's not accurate in totality.

MS. MARTIN: Right. So, Lahaina Roads isn't...isn't in here. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Kūpu'ohi is not in here.

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MARTIN: So, this would be where, if you wanted those types of counts, it would probably come from the Office of Recovery.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just saying like somebody watching from home is going to say, oh, only 142 units are rebuilt. But this isn't statistics on what's rebuilt and what's not, it's statistics on certain tax classifications and whatnot. There's more than 142 families that have returned home.

MS. MARTIN: Correct, correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: Right, that's the 142 plus the 1,300, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Maybe we can do a follow-up question. I'm sorry, kind of going long. Member Batangan...anybody else have a second round? Chair Lee has a second round, and Member Johnson. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Can we...can I ask you to go to page 4, the pie chart on Maui County revenue sources? So, most of these I'm kind of familiar with, but I don't understand how an interfund transfer is a source of revenue, or how a lapsed bond is a source of revenue for the County. Can you explain?

MS. MARTIN: So, this chart represents the...the revenues in that first page of the...the budget right there. So, it's just showing --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Like where money is coming from.

MS. MARTIN: -- percentage, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. But I don't understand how an interfund transfer generates revenue for the County, or how a bond lapsing generates revenue for the County either. So, I guess I'm just trying to understand what the sources of all of these revenue sources is. Because to me, that's not intuitive.

MS. MARTIN: Right. Well, the...the...like the...this is money that's going to be appropriated for this fiscal year. Yeah, it's the source of funds that we have to balance our budget, right?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. But...

MS. MARTIN: These are the appropriations, so...

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Maybe help me understand this. Like where does interfund transfer money come from? Is it...like it's interfunds, was within the County already, right? We're not...we're not getting money from an external source. But this is still almost 6 percent of...of our budget. I'm struggling to grasp what the source of this revenue is.

MS. MARTIN: Well, I don't have that in front of me, but we...we did discuss it in our revenue presentation, so we do have it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry.

MS. MARTIN: So, you can provide that in writing to us.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah, can I ask Staff to transmit the question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Budget Director is also on. She just turned on her video, if maybe she can respond.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director Milner? So, we're talking about real property tax.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. I'll keep it short. I think if you want super specifics, then yes, please send the question in writing. But we . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . need to...because of the requirement for a balanced budget, we need to recognize all available revenue in the estimated revenues that's going to be used for any of our expenses, either operating or CIP, which includes those interfund transfers, which the majority of which you'll find under Department of Finance Countywide costs. Those are the transfers from General Fund to the Solid Waste...well, we don't have that this year, but EP&S Fund, things like that, that we need to recognize in order to be able to budget under those separate funds. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. I still don't think I understand that because moving money from one pot to another doesn't generate money, and I feel like I'm still missing something. So, I guess, can I ask that we transmit the question in writing, and maybe I can work with you guys to make sure I'm clear on what this represents? So, interfund transfers and lapsed bonds, I don't understand how that's a revenue source. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee and...Member Paltin, you and I were talking about like in tandem, so if you have questions, you know, you can take the next one. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I know you're trying to bring us back to real property, but the part of the report were sources of funds and all these other things. So, that's what we're

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

April 20, 2026

asking on, as well as real property taxes specifically. But that's what I was concerned with, Director. And I'm not sure if you would be the person to ask or Lesley Milner. Because when we're...when we're talking about sources of funds, in some cases, projects don't go forward for one reason or another, yeah? And are you notified when it is...when it is determined that a source...a funding allocation is not going to be used as specified in the budget? Like for instance, just recently, we found out there was over \$5 million set aside for...earmarked for the Haggai Institute. And then at...at early and almost a year ago, the Administration found out, no, that's not the case. It's not going to be used for that. So, for almost a year, that money's sitting there in...in...in the bank. Are you notified, or is it the Budget Director that's notified? Is...is there some kind of report that's generated on projects that are not going to go forward or expenditures that are not going to be spent?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. So, you can put that question in writing and we can, you know, respond to you with that process . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is it to you or to the Budget Director?

MS. MARTIN: I think we all work together. So, I'd like to respond to that, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: -- in writing so I can...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: All right. Thank you. We'll ask our Staff to do that. Thank you. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who was next? Member Paltin? I'll just go down.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. You mentioned that if we wanted the class count by value and Council district of the other categories, is that something we can ask for in writing and get back? Not so much for this fiscal year, but if I'm still around next fiscal year, I would love to look at that data for, you know, looking, exploring tiering options and other things.

MS. MARTIN: Yes, I'm sure Eddie and his Staff can get that for you next year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. MARTIN: And if you needed it this year, you know, it's going to take them some time. They've been working...you know, we lost...because certification was on Sunday, we lost two days this year. So, it was a little tight, but...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. If --

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. Especially if it's not a rush.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if we could request it for next year, and whenever you can get this year's one ready, I wouldn't mind to look at it this year and...and try to come up with some plans for next fiscal year. But it doesn't need to be within the June or May or whenever we're working on this budget, but when you get a chance.

MS. MARTIN: Again, I appreciate the...getting the question in writing so that we make sure we provide the response that you need.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that something we can do?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tax-related, we can. Staff, so, you can...well, I'm going to ask you if you have any questions regarding real property tax to send it to Staff so that they can compile it and send it forward to Real Property Tax. So, it's one letter going...going forward...regarding real property tax. So, that would be due tomorrow morning at 9:00. Member Johnson? Oh, are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Director, you know, I wanted to talk a little bit about some of the tax cuts that is proposed by the Administration. So, Non-Owner-Occupied homes that are over \$3 million in value. TVR/Short-Term Rentals, \$900,000 Tier 1. And then Tier 3, more than \$3 million. These are...all three of these categories got a tax break this year compared to last year. And that totals \$12 million in tax breaks for these homes that are over \$3 million in value, for some...for example, some of them. The question I have is why? Why did you guys give these guys a tax break?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm looking on page 3 of your...but you...that's where I got it from.

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. So, you know, for that third tier, or Owner-Occupied, the...you know, the tax rate was increased for Fiscal '26. And so, we felt like, you know, because it's owner-occupied, and we've gotten contacted by a lot of owners that were impacted by that class. So, we proposed that reduction. And...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Did you take into account the Federal income tax breaks that all these wealthy folks are getting this year...this time during the Trump Administration? Or that's not a factor?

MS. MARTIN: That's not a factor.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. So, it was because last...you got a lot of calls and last year, they got a rate...a higher tax rate, is that the reason?

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. So, I...you know, I listen to people, I research their situation, and I...I give it consideration. And I kind of go back to that one . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . chart that I was referring to. And I think this is important. So, I know I'm flipping through pages, but the number of people getting circuit breaker in those top two tiers probably isn't where it needs to be, but we have worked on that --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: -- with you and the new circuit breaker. So, that was a consideration of trying to roll some of those people that we got calls from --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: -- and I think you all got calls from them, into the new Circuit Breaker Program, which won't take the applications until this August.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I see.

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. So, that...that was my concern. And...and in lowering this rate too, part of me listening to the input from the public was working with you to create that new circuit breaker.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Okay. Thanks for that response. I heard my time. I'll do a point of information, Chair, it'll just be...take a seconds. But Mr. Reyes sent an email in regards to the testimony this morning about the ranch and not cutting down the trees, and he spoke with the ranch, and they said they'd be more than happy to put that in writing for us. So, just wanted to put that information out there. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How nice. How nice. All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. I'm going to start with, I think, Budget Director. I was listening to Member Batangan's question about page 4, the County revenue sources pie chart. And so, I was curious about the answer, and I know there was a request for it to be in writing. So, for the yellow section, it says real property tax. And then the pink section, interfund transfers in this pie chart. Is the 91.3 million in interfund transfer, or a portion of it, counted twice from real property tax in the yellow section? Like is...is...is that amount counted in both pink and yellow?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, in a way, although, as you all know, RPT becomes part of the General Fund, so it's a little more complicated than that. But yes, in a way, it does appear twice, similar to the way fringe benefits appear twice in the budget documents, where you see them under

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

April 20, 2026

the Countywide costs as well as under the specific departments. Those interfund transfers represent, as I talked about earlier, transfers to the special funds, but they also reflect the debt service transfers back to the General Fund, so there's funding moving both ways. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that. Right, because TAT is also General Fund, and that's 65 million. And other things that generate revenue also go into General Fund and not only Revolving Fund. Okay. Hopefully...I mean, that...that's clear for me. Member Batangan, go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I guess where I was thrown off was the presentation of the information as a pie chart, because you still think of them as separate revenue sources rather than, you know, having some sort of overlapping aspect. So, I appreciate that, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Absolutely. Okay. And then...oh, shoot, I did have another question, but I don't know what it was right now. It's okay. I think I just wanted to . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . okay. I know what it is. Okay. I also heard the...the timer, but I shared some of my time with Member Batangan, so I'm going to ask my question, if that's okay. . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Unsolicited, by the way. It was like having those resource at Tamara's residency area meetings. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(laughing)*. . . And we're all the better for it. Okay. So, Director Martin, you know, I...I know...following up with Member U'u-Hodgins' line of questioning about, you know, like I know we...we don't know. I mean, the American empire could collapse tomorrow, you know, and then...and then, you know, like Member U'u-Hodgins said, like then the dollars would be worth less than firewood. So, until that time...or like, well, I guess I shouldn't say it that way, but . . . *(laughing)*. . . okay. The point of my question is . . . *(laughing)*. . . are the housing policies that we continue to pass to shape our housing market helping in the way that we had intended back in 2019 when we did the Real Property Tax Reform TIG in developing the different types of incentives, such as the Long-Term Rental, tiering the classes, et cetera?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. And I would say, yes. If you look at the net value charts and the revenue charts, they go together. So, the additional revenues that we have gotten from, say, the tiers, we have used that to offset and create tax relief for other classes, and most importantly, I was really excited to see that Long-Term Rental class reach the level which, you know, we had strived for. So, I...I feel that we've been very proactive in working with our classifications, our tiers, and our...our tax relief, and I also think the...you know, we've increased the level of taxation based upon what's needed to serve our community. And, you know, the easy thing to do would be to do nothing, be oh, the values went up, we're going to get more revenue, or the values go

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

April 20, 2026

down, we're all going to cut, right? But I do feel that the Administration and this body really dive in, to kind of see what those pockets are. And you can use the tiers, use the classifications, and use tax relief to form a comprehensive program which is good for our economy. Not only good for government, but good for our economy, too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response, Director Martin, and that...that...I think that was really important, again, as a reminder for all of us here and for the public that watches our meetings because our residents...what serves our residents is having housing that they can afford. And having housing that they can't afford, the multimillion dollar, tens of million dollars houses help to generate revenue, but we only need so many of those to help with the revenue to offset some of the tax relief that we provide until a certain point where it becomes out of reach, and then, you know, those houses are no longer serving our people if it's pricing our people out. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Just a reminder, this is like second round, two minutes, I think we were like...interesting. I will then go to Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins, then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Director. I also communicated with people--local, long-term, born and raised, multigenerational people--who the higher tax rates, because of the appraisals of their property, was choke...they felt choked, and I believe that you've been working with them to identify different methods and means to acknowledge and accommodate that. I was looking at the...at the tax rates on the Non-Owner-Occupied, and over the last five years, it's...some of them, it's gone up like ten times. It's gone from like 70,000 a year...well, not ten times, but to like 350,000 a year for some properties, and I've been an advocate of that, of...of utilizing those funds to substitute and to subsidize our local tax base and services. And...but I...I feel that there's...I'm...I'm getting the pushback that there's a limit, and I've had conversations with colleagues about, well, there'll always be rich people, and the other people will buy them. And part of the challenge I want to point out is, a lot of the people in our community who contribute to our nonprofits besides us are the people who have been here for many, many years and really care for the community. They might not be full-time residents, but they've been invested in roots in the community for a long time. So, I'm just...I'm hoping that we can keep the good people here who are going to contribute to our nonprofits and not chase them away, and I think we're at the breaking point. People don't see that and feel it, and I've worked for people, and I get feedback, so I'm not advocating for the rich people to pay less. I'm advocating for us to have sustainability in our subsidy for our local residents. So, Director, how much of the appeals have you gotten from the Non-Owner-Occupied aspect from our current taxation?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What page? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Oh.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I see the number. I was just wondering, like, the...the vibe. Any different vibe, or is it always sort of same complaint, too much?

MS. MARTIN: Well, you know, you would be surprised. Appeals come for a variety of...of reasons, and you appeal values, not taxes. So, I will put that out there. And like I said, this year, we experienced a reduction in the number of appeals, and that probably has a lot to do with the more stable values year over year.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

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

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Member Cook asked my question on the Tier 3, Non-Owner-Occupied. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, you're done? Okay. So, Members, any...I'm going to just say that tomorrow, if you have...did I...did I miss you, Member Johnson? Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if you have questions for RPT, tomorrow by 9:00, if you could submit it, those questions. And if you have questions that are, like, Finance Department related, then you're going to have to talk to the Finance Department individually if your answer *[sic]* was not answered. Is that correct?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, Staff...Staff would just add that...that as part of that, Members are also asked to submit any requests they have already for...for Finance relating to valuation information they need for...for tiering. So, if they have any tiers that they're already kind of considering, as the Committee looks at decision making on real property taxes later this week, and they need information on what values are associated with those tiers, you know, we'd...we'd be able to provide that to...to the Department of Finance already during this first round.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shoot. I think when we were doing the range of rates, that's what I submitted, the tiering information.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: At the deadline, is that what you're saying? You already did it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I already did it. I guess I misinterpreted what the range of rates was, and I was submitting tiering information...which, I mean, I got no problem with the range of rates all you guys submitted, but can you take my range of rates information and that's my tiering information?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do you have it? You have it? Okay. Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I also...I also submitted, not specifics, but just what my intentions were.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You got it?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Did they receive it?

MR. KRUEGER: So, Chair, we'll take a look at those responses that we got from Member Sinenci and Paltin earlier this...this month and review.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Members, so we are done with RPT. Thank you very much. So, submit whatever you want tomorrow. Thank you very much, Director, for being here, and could you introduce your associate again? I'm sorry.

MS. MARTIN: Again, this is Eddie Manzano, and he is our Property Technical Officer, and he is...and his team are the people behind answering a lot of these questions and providing these charts. And I really, really appreciate them this year, like I said, because they had two less days. So, it's...they just do a really great job, and I really appreciate all of this that they put together for us. So, thank you, Eddie and property technical Staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Kari, right?

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MARTIN: And Kari. Yes, Kari is on vacation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Where...I thought we would see her.

MS. MARTIN: Otherwise, she would be here. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. All right. Thank you very much for being here. So, appreciate you, and I'm sure you'll be hearing from the Members for such an important, you know, department. So, at this time, then, Members, it is now 11:00. You want to take a break before lunch? Okay. We'll come back at 11:10. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 11:00 a.m.
RECONVENE: 11:42 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . It is 11:42. Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Sorry for the delay. We were Xeroxing...or we were making copies of the priorities and other documents. So, at this time, the Staff will distribute the priority amendment matrix, and the duplicate priorities have been highlighted for your reference, and before lunch, I'd like to confirm the number of priorities permitted for each Member. Each Member was asked to submit up to two residency area proposals, up to three Countywide proposals, and up to two Revolving Fund conditions, and up to two grant conditions as well, as any possible...and any possible alternatives. So, the majority of the Members did not submit any alternates.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we might have long lists. We do have several duplicate proposals, and that may be an opportunity to include the alternate proposals submitted by two Members.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was going to put in about the priority top locations for EMA, and Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett did say he turned it in on Thursday, but we never received it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, his response.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So, that was my alternate, but we never received it over the weekend. And I did text him that like, you know, unfortunately, never received it, because I wanted to put that as my priority. So, that's my alternate for the Maui Mediation with Kauanoe.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, yeah, we still are missing responses, so it must be one of those. Maybe we can pray that it comes soon. So, anybody have any thoughts? I guess we're having a discussion about this. Any thoughts, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're fine? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . have to read it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You just got to read it. Okay. Once the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, that was my alternate, the clearing of high-risk priorities. I did mention it when Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett was here, but I just didn't have the data to include because we never got EMA-3 back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, so, are you asking for discussion on the number and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, if you...if you want to.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- on priorities? Okay. So, I just got the package. I just followed the template, but have not been able to read through what other Members submitted. Did anybody submit more than what the template provided for? Like do we have to vote to limit the number of proposals that people are putting forth?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I wanted to just put it out there in case anybody wanted to talk about it. You're good? You're good. Okay. So, now we --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- have Member...Member Paltin's going to submit an alternative, right? With...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, as soon as I am able to read the EMA-3.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We haven't received their response...their response yet. Okay. Very good. So, I asked, also...the Staff also created a separate spreadsheet that has the duplicates. So, all of you, whatever you submitted, they created a separate one, duplicate or overlapping Member priorities. You want to explain that, Kirsten or James?

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No. Oh, wait, are you...

MS. SZABO: Thank you, Chair. We distribute a handout that has the date that we're anticipating the Committee will discuss the items, and it has a crosswalk of that page.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no, just for the priorities, the duplicate priorities.

MS. SZABO: Oh, I apologize. Thank you. So, we did assess and review all of the priorities submitted, and the team identified that there were some overlapping priorities, and with those, we created a...there are, I think, three or four, and so we created a summary of those so the Members can discuss and decide who will keep the priority, and who will then find a substitute for that priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You have it, Members? It's the duplicate or overlapping Member priorities, and it says who the Councilmember is, budget bill, page number, proposal, and overlapping from. So, that information, and...and if you have a duplicate, then during lunch, you can talk to the other Member and figure out who's going to keep it, and who's going to maybe find another one. The other spreadsheet that you just got is called 20...Fiscal Year '27 Decisions Week Department Crosswalk. Okay. Now you can explain it.

MS. SZABO: Okay. Thank you. Now I'm catching up with myself. And that...that is just a summary of the anticipated date of discussion, and then provides the department, and then the applicable page numbers that you can find in the budget bill, and as well as the appendices. And the hope is that this will facilitate the conversation and help the Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it's good, yeah?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: First time.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: This is very helpful. I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very, very helpful. And if you notice on the last column, if there's an asterisk, it's saying that we have not received the response from that department. So, there are still pukas that we are hoping to get, but if not, it'll...we'll make decisions as best as we can, because I know that's what we'll do. Yeah, helpful, yeah? Okay. Next.

MS. SZABO: And then the next is the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The...the thick one.

MS. SZABO: -- Magical Priorities Listing. It's about 33 pages long. It was distributed to the Members. The team is working on providing an 11 by 17 format, so that printed, it

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

April 20, 2026

can be easier for the Members to read. But that's a list of all the priorities, and the duplicates are overlapping...or duplicates are highlighted in yellow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Got it, Members? So, it's pretty hard to read. It's 8-1/2 by 11, but Staff is...they are going to be putting it in 11 by 14 [sic]...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 17.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 17. And when? When?

MS. SZABO: Thank you, Chair. We're attempting to get that done before you go to break, so please feel free to talk lots.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. And thank you so much for these. These are really helpful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: For the duplicate priorities, I understand. Do we...because obviously we didn't have a chance to look at this now, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- over lunch, we should probably consider, do we have duplicate areas of cuts that maybe we need to then figure out if we're going to...this project is maybe not going to go through, or figure out where we can cut from other places for the offsets? Do we have duplicate offsets?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members were submitting their priorities with the offsets. Go ahead.

MS. SZABO: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. Yes, there were duplicate offsets. We did not provide a summary of those.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. That's fine. I mean, we have the opportunity to go through them during lunch, and then I guess we can figure out during decisions week how we're going to manage those offsets.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, thanks. And Chair Lee, you have a question? You look like...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm hungry.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. You're hungry. Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . All right. Okay. So, Members, excellent. Thank you. I really appreciate this crosswalk. So, just for your information, if you have a duplicate with another Member, you can figure out and talk to each other. One person can give it up and come up with another one to substitute it, and...but you need to also share your decision in public, right? Because of Sunshine. But we do have to make that decision so that we can complete this. The other thing is, for your information, the reason why this crosswalk is really important is because we will be taking up, when we call up up...in Bill 55, which is Legislative Branch first, so County Clerk, then OCS, Auditor, whatever, is going to be in that order for Legislative Branch. And then we're going to go to all the departments. I want to end today with DEM, if we can get that far, is my goal. I would love to get further than that if we can, because time is of the essence. But this crosswalk is going to help you just look at where things are in Bill 55, and what is in Bill 55 that's relevant to the department. And I'm going to be taking up...when we open up, I'm going to be taking up the department, any priorities that were there from any of the Members, and then go into Bill 55, and what's in Bill 55 in Operations, CIP, whatever is relevant to the department. So...and then we'll get a consensus, if we can, and...and then move to the next department. So, that's my goal. And I would love to get all the way to Department of Environmental Management, which probably has the most sections in it, as we know, right, with wastewater, sewer, everything. So, that is what we have planned for today.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but if we cut wastewater . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm not saying we're going to cut it. I'm just saying those are the divisions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Any questions? Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, I just want to make sure I'm clear. So, look to the decision week department crosswalks for the order in which the departments are going to be called before us. The date in which we're asking them to come is listed...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, they're not coming. It's our show now.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, okay, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No departments are going to come.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, but...so look to the order in which they're coming up --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- for the order in which we should be prepared to discuss them.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And the...pretty much the only things that we're considering are in the big matrix of every Members' priorities, with the exception of the alternate that Member Paltin's still waiting on from Emergency Management --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And, you know, relative to our decisions, I just want to thank all of you. I know last week some of you never saw your children because we were at the residency area meetings. It was a push to do...to adjust to the Kona Low storm weather, so thank you very much. Everybody was doing things, and we heard what the residents were saying. So, appreciate that for all the people that came. Okay. Now we have the decisions week is what we're doing, and the...really the hard job is...is before us. We got to take a deep dive, put the priority of the community and their needs, and then let's figure out how much of all the things that the Administration submitted that they can actually do, because as we know, this is a fat budget, right? 174 million in Carryover/Savings. That...that says a message to you about there is fat in the budget. There is fat in E/Ps, right? They want to hire 91 more, and we have this 500 vacancy. There's so many stories that we have all learned, but in addition, the...the depth of what we're trying to do is hear the voices of the community, provide our services as...as...as is our responsibility. So, that is it. I'm going to take a recess. Is...okay. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry. I'm still trying to make sure I'm clear --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- on what we should be expecting. So, when we are going to present our proposals to the rest of the body for consideration, it's going to be as we come up...as the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- department comes up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. If we had cuts that go across departments, when are we to discuss those? Is it with the proposals --

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- that we wanted to fund, or...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, are you saying that you have a cut that is for all the departments?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah...well, I have most...I have...I have offsets that impact most departments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Interesting. I have...I have --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, I guess I'm just trying to make sure I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I have broad --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- cuts too.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I just want to make sure I...I know when to...to speak on the matters.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I think I'm understanding what you're saying, so I'm going to talk to you --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- during recess so I can get it correct. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Are we doing this exercise to get their permission?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No...whose permission? Our...our --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The department --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- our permission.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- the department's permission.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. You know, Members, I think whatever you put in your priority or condition, I think you spoke to the department, is that what you're asking, to see if they can do it?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I...

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not on the cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I mean, you know, people have their own way of handling things --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- and since we all know for a fact there's fat in every department, I...I...and every time I ask people about their priorities, directors, they never tell you. Everything is a priority, so you have to draw your own conclusions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, correct. That's why the responses are important. But if we don't get it, it's your show, gang. All right. Any more questions? I'm going to take lunch to...it's 11:55. Can we come back at 1:30? Is that enough time for you to look at your...the...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Sinenci is trying to get your attention.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry, Member Sinenci. Oh, you have so much light behind you, I can't see you. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: An angel.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Angel. Nohe, said you're an angel.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Did we decide how many priorities are Countywide yet?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I will...what...I will read the list. Two residency...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No, I got...I got the list.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I got the list, but I was --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Three Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- wondering if we could --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Three Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- increase.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Three Countywide, two Revolving Fund conditions, and up to two grant conditions. You went blank, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I can hear you, but I can't see you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, sorry. Oh, and just for Sunshine, we have Mavis Medeiros in the office as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: My question was, I have some duplicates, but I did not include the replacement in my alternative.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm not sure what you mean, because you didn't --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Like if...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- know you had a duplicate.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, I have a duplicate that other Members will take up, but...but I did...for my replacement, I didn't put...list it as...as an alternative.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's something that...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Can I still propose?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, something would be brand new at this point, which means you didn't --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- meet the deadline. Is that what you're...you --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- don't have like priority?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I do, but...but it looks like I had a...had a 11th hour request.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: He can throw himself at our mercy.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. . . *(laughing)*. . . Chair Lee said you can throw yourself at our mercy, which means we can vote you up or down. That makes sense to me.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that good, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that good? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else, Members? Are...are you all good coming back at 1:30? Because I think I had a request that you...you wanted to look at all of the priorities. You want to come back later?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a HSAC meeting in three minutes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, when can you come back?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: When it's finished. I'll...I'll hurry them along. After all, Madam President, you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh. Okay. So, 1:30, 1:45?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kasie just said it got canceled, so no need.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. . . *(laughing)*. . . Yay. Oh. 1:30, is 1:30 good, everybody? Okay. This meeting is now in recess, so 1:30, we'll come back. . . *(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 11:58 a.m.
RECONVENE: 1:40 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Okay. Welcome back, everybody. Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:40 p.m. Okay. Great. I can hear the buzz in the Chamber. That means everybody's had time to have a great lunch and look at our priorities. So, everyone has a chance to review the priority matrix, and you all got the 11 by 17 version. And so, we want to take up duplicate priorities. There are currently eight priorities that overlap. They involve Maui Mediation Service, Street Medicine, Project Vision, and Ka'ahumanu Church. Staff had highlighted them in the matrix. For each duplicate priority that affected Members. Members decide who will keep the priority and who will submit a replacement or substitute priority. Substitute proposals are allowed for duplicates only. Replacements or substitute proposals for duplicate priority will be due within two hours after today's meeting ends. All right. So, we have duplicate priority. I had one, so I'll start. Mine was with Ka'ahumanu Church, and you all got the matrix that has the duplicates. Oops, here it

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

April 20, 2026

is. And so, mine was Ka'ahumanu Church, and I will say that I'm not going to be submitting a replacement. So, who also had Ka'ahumanu Church is Tom Cook, as well as Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. So, between the two of you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm willing to keep it as far as planning, so it depends on what my colleagues want to do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did you ask Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Can I keep it?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds good.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member...Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Is that okay with you, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All of you okay, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, Member Cook is going to purchase the Cove Park parcel and you're keeping Ka'ahumanu, or how...what?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . That's interesting, nobody's talking about Cove Park.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, this is only the duplicate for Ka'ahumanu Church.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, both of you guys are going to do Ka'ahumanu Church?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. So, I'm not going to submit another priority.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. And he's going to keep Ka'ahumanu Church?

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He's going to keep, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez said she's fine with that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member Rawlins...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I submitted like five.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Tom...so, you have that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, nobody's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- going to do Cove Park then?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Well, that's not what we're talking about. Next, we have Maui Mediation Services, which is Member Paltin and Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. So, I did submit alternates...alternate priorities, one of which was Boy Scouts. So, if I'm allowed to take this off of my palette, I would like to then insert one of my alternates.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you fine, Member Paltin? Okay. So, we're going to give this one to Member Paltin, correct? You're fine? Okay. All right. And the last one is for Street Medicine/Project Vision, and it's Member Paltin, Chair Lee, and Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, it's going to be...Member Sinenci --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is going to keep that, and then Chair Lee is going to submit Auntie Nettie Lahaina Resource and Recovery as her Countywide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you write that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm going to submit the EMA top two wildfire risks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, in order to make this changes happen for what you're saying, and for Chair Lee and Member Batangan, you need to submit that in writing to OCS Staff.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, if I had already submitted it as an alternate --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- in my spreadsheet, do you still need me to do something? Like do I need to identify...

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I guess I should ask them, what do you need?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Staff...yeah. Staff, what would you like from us?

MS. SZABO: If we already have it, if you could just be clear on which one it was, and we can identify it, and if we have any questions, we'll follow up with you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you said you need it two-and-a-half hours after this meeting is pau?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Two hours.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Two hours after this meeting is pau.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Member Paltin is correct, except I'm adding money to that. I'm adding...to 188,500, I'm adding 61,500. You want to know where I'm going to get it from?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, where are you getting it from?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. From the Office of the Mayor Economic Development Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, do I have to specify that...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that clear enough for you guys? That's kind of general.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Makahiki season --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- account.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Auntie Nettie's one is 250,000, that's why she's adding 61,500.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see what you're saying. Did you...did you get that?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, I'm not sure if we received that one in writing, so if we could have it in writing, that would help us. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, we just did it. Okay. Thanks. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: You get two hours after this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Member Sinenci's one was a grant condition, that's why, so he's just conditioning what he's conditioning. So, Member Sinenci is going to keep it as original. Chair Lee's going to do Nā Kia'i O Maui with the extra money offset, as she stated. And I'm going to submit my proposal two hours after, and it's for the top two EMA wildfire risk deduction.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Staff, and then for me, it's going to be the...the Boy Scouts Camp Maluhia. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All of you are fine, right? So, Chair Lee, you got to write it up and send it forward.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, now we've got the duplicate...overlapping duplicate priorities done. So, Member Paltin, Member Sinenci, and Member Cook, as was discussed. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't...I just need clarification. I don't see a duplicate of Boy Scouts. Is the Boy Scout thing an alternate?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, that was one of my alternates.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, I'm just letting Staff know that...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And it's not on the list?

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, because my understanding is that the list was only the priorities --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Duplicates.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- not the...the alternate proposals were not included.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. I just wanted to make sure I wasn't not finding it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Yes. No, go ahead.

MS. SZABO: Chair, we were just wondering if Member Rawlins-Fernandez wanted to tell us which one of her alternates she'd like to substitute for the Ka'ahumanu Church?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I think I put them in order of priority.

MS. SZABO: Okay. If you have any questions, we'll reach out to you. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Plus, she had five, right? . . .*(laughing)*. . . More than she's supposed to.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I might have been exaggerating. . . *(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One through...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It might have been like four and a half.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One through three, one through four. Okay. So, we're...we're done, right? You will then submit to Staff, right? Whatever your replacements are. Thank you. Except Chair Lee. So, now we're going to start digging in, right? Members, we'll now take up broad cuts to the Mayor's proposed budget, if anybody has broad cuts. I will tell you that I have one. I will proceed. Relating to expansion positions, my proposal is to retain the E/Ps, but remove the funding. As we all know, there are numerous vacancies across departments. Some of those positions are inactive but continue to be funded. Departments have told us they are using funding from vacant positions to cover overtime. That approach distorts the true cost of operation and overstates the amount needed for fringe benefits. That's a very expensive addition.

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

April 20, 2026

The total amount proposed for expansion positions is \$3,441,584, and plus the associated fringe, so that's...that's more. I will now entertain a motion to move the General Fund expansion...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you repeat the number?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, \$3,441,584, plus associated fringe. So, how do we figure out the associated fringe? Is it times 80 percent?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. But can we leave the associated fringe for now and just remove the money from the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just do that one side of it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because we're going to take Countywide later. So, is that...would Members --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- like to see...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll make the motion, but I would like to...I think MEMA said they have a warm body in one of their expansion positions because Maui United Way put it, so I would take that one out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, do you have...do you have more detail than that? Their amount that they have, summary of expansion positions included in the budget is actually \$323,340. So, it's more than that position, one position. So, could you provide that for us?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's somewhere in all these papers. How much time do I have?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, in response to Member Paltin's question, I see the Budget Director popped online.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: She may be able to provide the answer --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- that you're looking for.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Here you go. Director Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, I can pull that up. I just also wanted to mention that Human Concerns also has some positions that are listed as expansion, but they're moving from grant funding to General Fund because of the loss of revenue. So, there are also people in those positions, which I can get you as well. And I'd also like to ask for consideration for our smaller departments that have making...been making really significant progress on filling those vacancies and also don't have any savings that could absorb that if they're able to fill the positions. So, I'd just like that...to...you to take that into consideration during your deliberations.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, do you know what...

MS. MILNER: I will get you the position numbers that already have people in them momentarily. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And what departments are you referencing?

MS. MILNER: I'm specifically thinking off the top of my head of 'Ōiwi Resources, East Maui Water Authority, Department of Agriculture. Those are the three that come to mind right away because...and maybe Prosecuting Attorney. And they may not have the ability to absorb the increase in costs if they fill those positions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To add to that discussion, I'm not opposed to the idea, especially the bigger departments or the older departments. For the newer departments with less people that couldn't absorb it, I still gave them money, but like half what they're asking for in my worksheet. So, I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- think they all asked for like eight months, a lot of them, and I dropped it down to four months --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because of Personnel saying the 90 to 97 days of onboarding. So, I don't know if you can start posting it that far ahead if you don't have the money or whatever. But a lot of the smaller departments, I dropped their expansion positions down from eight months to four months in my proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And it'll come up when we take up the departments, right? We're going to do yours department by department?

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, unless we do this broad stroke.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I would like to do this. I think what we can do then is when you take up your department by department and that gets resolved and we can deduct it from this and we can revisit this then. Is that all right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan? Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, if I'm following correctly, we have a motion, but no second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, we didn't make a motion.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I thought you were...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was just discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was...yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I thought you were making the motion --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, she was...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- and wanted to ask that you clarify what it was --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- because I got lost.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we didn't get there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're still discussing before the motion got made.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You want me to do it now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no, let's...let's take...because if you're going to go department by department, it's going to overlap on some of these and we can look at it after.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah? Okay. So, Members, this is a total of \$3,000,441 [sic] and...44...\$441 and 500 --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thousand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 500...and \$584. Okay. So, I'm going to revisit this. Thanks. Are there any more proposed broad cuts?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I had a proposed broad cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You do? Okay. Good, good. Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. And I think before I share what I did, it's helpful to give context to where I was coming from. So, if you'll indulge me. So, I was really reflecting on the conversations that we've had with the Deputy Finance Director and the Managing Director on our Carryover/Savings. You know, I...I heard where they were coming from and, you know, there are good reasons for...for why we had that and, you know, there are benefits to having some Carryover/Savings. But I wanted to get a sense of where we were at over the last few years, historically. So, I pulled data going all the way back to '99. That was the first year of Mayor Apana's term, and I thought that gave us a pretty good sample size of...of years and administrations. There were some solid disruptions and, you know, there were significant events that would impact our County's budget, like 9/11, the financial crisis, COVID, and, you know, the wildfire. And I don't think we were...our...our gut feeling of there still being too much still rang true. Like in absolute values, in relative values, meaning as a percentage of the budget, the operating budget only, you know, stripping out CIPs which can span Administrations, and to the extent that I was able to, controlling for Federal reimbursements. I do think that we are still at a historic high, meaning we are overtaxing our citizens and, you know, not delivering on all of the goods and services that we promised to do so through this budget process. And that's kind of why I asked for a broad cut to departments. I didn't know exactly how to do...go about, and I think there are different ways we could have done it, like department by department. Say one had like 5 percent carryover, one had 7, you reduce them different amounts just to go down to like 3 percent. You give them inflation, something to that effect. But I...I decided not to, and I instead proposed a 1-1/4 percent cut over all of our departments. That was kind of how I started it. And then when I was again reflecting on what the Managing Director said about needing to be able to respond to emergencies, I was like, okay, well, maybe I'll take out the first responders...so Police, Fire, and DEM. And then, you know, I was further reflecting that...and...on that, and I came back to the CIPs, where you know, like Water's \$24 million from last year, for example, could easily just be two projects. So, I didn't want to penalize departments for, you know, outliers in...in their budgets. And so, I...I revisited my 1-1/4 percent cuts to just non-first responders and limited it only to general funds. I got about \$5 million off of that and figured it was fair. You know, I think it helps get us back towards historic norms. I think 1-1/4 percent off the top of your General Fund requests is impactful, but not overly burdensome for each of the departments. And that's kind of how I ended up with what...what we have here. I...I

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

April 20, 2026

submitted it to Staff. I think that they just handed out a spreadsheet to the effect of like what that would mean for each department. And, you know, as I was reflecting on that further, I still felt that this would have been a fair way to go. You know, our...our process of going to community to community gives a good sense of what the needs are out there and what is...was still unmet after the Mayor gave his proposed budget. But our process of going department by department on what's a priority and what's a luxury didn't quite yield that same level of insight. You know, either everything was a priority or the only things that could be cut are for the things in the Members' districts. Like I personally don't think Ag needs two secretaries. I don't think Transportation needs \$2 million more just to permit the ferries. I don't think Police needs \$1,000 chairs or that the Mayor's office needs four people making director-level salaries. But each of them is telling me that they do need this. And so, I think that there's fat to be cut. And I think 1-1/4 percent is a reasonable amount to start with. And I think that the...giving them the...the agencies or the departments flexibility on where to cut since they didn't initially tell us is also a fair way to go. And that's how I came up with my proposal. I should also note that it is more than I proposed to add. So, we would, if adopting this, need to adjust rates and fees as well because we would be unbalanced if we...if we take my approach.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Well done. I will tell you that when I worked for Mayor Apana, because that's how far you went back, listen to this, to do small towns, I had \$55,000. That was a totally different world. Budgets were totally different. But we did have 9/11 during that time, so we had our own catastrophe. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm...I'm not opposed to the broad...I mean, I guess I am opposed to the broad cut. I like to be more targeted. I guess a little bit of my concern is those departments that use a lot of fuel, electricity, and those things, that we don't know the impact of the Iran war. Like I mean, if you look at Board of Ethics, do they really have to drive at all? But, you know, Parks, in their cleaning of the thing, and then the sewer increases, we didn't account for. So, in that way, I'm...I'm opposed to the broad cuts without taking into account external factors. We didn't...nobody put as their priority to give Parks money for their...to cover for the 9 percent increase in sewer. We did just see Public Works do a budget amendment to cover the increase in fuel costs. So, I'm...I'm not opposed to cuts across certain departments, but I think we need to take into account that nobody took into account the 9 percent sewer increases, and Parks has high amounts for that. And I know they drive around to all the parks to clean the parks, which I would like them to clean...drive around and clean the parks. So, that's one of my concerns is a 1.25 percent in this unstable Federal Administration is not equally applied because some departments don't have gas expenditures or electricity to the same degree that other departments have. And then even if it's a 1.25, if your budget is really small to begin with, that could be a hardship, like...and I don't want to penalize the folks that are really tight on theirs. Like they're...in...in my looking at the...I just went back three years, some departments have bigger Carryover/Savings than others. So, that's why I'm more for targeted than broad strokes. But that's just my discussion. I see Member Rawlins-Fernandez has her hand up.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I do see Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member, proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I agree with Member Paltin. I would rather take a scalpel approach than a sledgehammer. I wanted to ask about the departments' requests. So, in the past, our Member priorities reflected the requests that we heard during our district hearings. Departmental requests were treated differently. And so, my question to you is, are we going to treat departmental requests differently than our Councilmember priorities as we have done in the past?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If you are asking me, I think this is all part of the same story. But Member Batangan, you want to comment that? And I'll do a second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, I wasn't asking him. My request would be that we treat departmental requests differently than Councilmember priorities like we've done in the past. That would be what I would vote for.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, I guess...well, what I was asking Member Rawlins-Fernandez was if she was asking me or if she was asking you as Chair. I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, this is a procedural question.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it wasn't for you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And then I guess from my own understanding, since, you know, I am a freshman Member here, what's the difference between the departmental requests and the...the public requests?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, what I explained is as Councilmembers, we went out into the different communities, into the different residency area districts, heard directly from community members that may perhaps did not, you know, get their request in to the Mayor or perhaps didn't get the full request in the Mayor's proposal. So, you know, that was our opportunity to go into the community and hear directly from the community, and then, you know, beseech our colleagues to support us in putting those into our budget. From the department, sometimes something is missed or a war happens and the impacts, we don't know. And then, you know, we'll hear from the departments those things, and then together we would vote on those without it affecting our priorities from the community.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Internal, external.

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah, I --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- just didn't make a distinction until you explained it between the Mayor's proposed budget and the departmental request because I thought...I didn't realize that the departmental requests were subsequent to the release of the Mayor's proposed budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, this is my perspective. This is one budget and we were all given opportunities to add priorities/conditions to what we heard from the departments. They sent in their responses so we have similar information. And then we went out to the community and we also heard from the community. So, some of their requests ended up with our priorities, but not all, right? So, we all have a opportunity to measure whatever that is in terms of what our priorities are and what we heard and what we decided. So, I don't look at it as different. It is, to me, one and the same. And you, as Councilmembers, have the opportunity to add, subtract, cut, do whatever. I appreciate the work that Member Batangan did for this because it looks like he did analysis and looked at Category A, B, CIP, for all the departments and did your analysis, not the...not for Police, Fire, DE...the Emergency Management, or not, you know, first responders. So, appreciate that sensitivity to what our core values are. So, on this, I will say that if you want to take it up later after we take up all the departments, or would you like to take a motion and take a motion on...take a vote on this? My...my proposal we're going to do after all the others. So, Member Batangan, what would you like us to do?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I'm comfortable either way. I just would like to know, like, if we vote down my first proposal, I need time to come up with an alternative proposal. So, I just ask for that grace.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I do have some targeted cuts, but I didn't add them up to make sure that they offset all of my individual ones. I...I came to the body with this as my first proposal, and this is what I would like to pursue.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But if need be, I can take a different approach.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I am looking this as one of your proposals. Members, up for discussion, I guess, if I'm...Member Paltin, and then U'u-Hodgins.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just have a clarification on the paper. It's 1.25 percent off the total, including Category A, B, and CIP?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or...and that's Category B, you're taking it as B and C because they're combined?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Well, I mean, I...I have targeted Category A cuts, so the combination of all the cuts might be kind of wonky, I guess. I stayed away from Category B, so I don't really have a problem with Category B's 1.25 percent or whatnot. And then I have no problem with the grace part, but the other part of it is, I would kind of pick and choose the 1.25 percent cut to get to what you need. Cutting from County Clerk during an election year when it's like, you know, SAVE Act and like that, I would...I would not really be supportive of. I don't mind cutting from us, no problem. County Auditor...ah, okay. You know, certain ones, I got no problems with, like a B or...the CIP, I'd rather not because of all the time it takes and the coordination. Category B, I got no problem on certain ones. Human Concerns, I'd have an issue with just because of all the Federal money we're faced with losing. We already heard from the Tutu and Me, folks and like that. Human Concerns. Housing is a critical need. Management, I'm okay with. ITS, I'm okay with. You know, Board of Ethics kind of things. So, I'm...I'm...I'm just more of a targeted person, sorry. And I'll yield.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did anybody else --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There's Nohe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- have their hand up? Oh, Member U'u-Hodgins. Sorry, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Luckily, Member Paltin kind of said what I was thinking while I have no voice. But I do appreciate this. I think this is great as like a...like a theory and maybe where we should aim, but as we go through them, we will most likely cut a lot of Category A, and that's like where other peoples' are. That was kind of my question earlier, how many duplicate offsets we're going to have, and then it's going to be difficult to kind of calculate as we're going through with everybody else's priority. And as Member Paltin said, typically, Category B, once in a while, we cut like specific stuff like the chairs and whatnot. Because those are...then I was thinking, how much are our chairs? And I didn't even know you could spend \$1,000 on a chair, but, you know, every day we learn new things. And then as Member Paltin was saying too, like CIP is kind of hard, because right now we're only finding that it's getting more expensive, like the concrete or whatever, right?...40 percent more expensive than it was, like that's --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That's in two years.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- bananas. But I think perhaps maybe we can look at the Category B, as Member Paltin said. But this is a good analysis of how much money, like in one condensed packet. Thank you so much for doing this work. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, good job.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And if the body wants, I can take a more targeted approach by removing like the CIPs or the offices that Member Paltin had mentioned, because I do have much more proposed in cuts than I do in adds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Adds.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, I would still be within your guidance. Part of why I took this broad approach was because I wanted to recognize that we have been overtaxing our citizens, and you know, I was comfortable bringing it down. But if we are, you know, uncomfortable with the degree to which I took this, I'm happy to revise the proposal as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I have a suggestion on a way forward. So, we have this paper now, and as we go through each department, we can see at that time like what we want to do. Like for me, I would...I would kind of leave the clerks alone. It's an election year. I don't want any reasons, like they've messed up the election, because whatever. But then like, when we get to Council Services, I'm okay with a 1.25 percent across the board personally, you know, but we can take up that discussion as each department comes up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I guess what I'm hearing you say is we'll put this aside, and we'll take it up as we take up the departments, right? That's what we're saying. And the same thing with mine. So, the ones that I propose --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I'm going to wait until we hear...I know you have, you know, department by department, because I've been listening to you ask questions of the departments when they come up, or directors, so I can see, you know, what your focus is. And Member Batangan similarly. So, we'll put this aside, not for you to redo the whole thing, but as we take up things, we can reflect maybe, and we'll see how it comes up. Is that okay, Members? So, we'll put this aside, just like mine, expansion positions.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But good job. Member --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. So, I wanted to, before we set this aside, I think it's important that we answer Member U'u-Hodgins' question, which she's asked twice now. If your process is to credit offsets to a specific Councilmember to fund their priorities, if there are multiple Councilmembers that have the same, who gets the credit for it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, this is...this is what, jan ken po, Member Johnson, is saying.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Case by case.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I think it's really case by case. And...and, you know, I have to tell you something, that I tried to do this two budgets ago, and I was voted down. Nobody wanted to do offsets. So, just to get all of you here is a major accomplishment, just to think of that. Because otherwise, we're just taxing, taxing, taxing. We're just adding to it, right? So, we have...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin does that every year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, she cuts also, you know?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She cuts the most, more than any of the Councilmembers --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- more than any of --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(Indiscernible)*. . . people.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the Councilmembers that advocate for austerity.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Exactly. So, Member Paltin, thank you very much for all these years for really dissecting the budget and what you've done. I have...you know, all of us have different experiences in budget, but I'm really glad to see all of you here. So, my

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

April 20, 2026

answer to this is, if...we won't use Member Paltin. If Member Johnson has an add, but he found an offset, right? And that offset is going to go into the offset pot, I'm thinking, because as we go through this whole budget, we may end up with more offset or not enough offset, whatever it's going to be. But I believe that because you put the thought into it, there is a balance there, and we'll see if there's duplicates.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, Chair, what I explained before today is that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Before today.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- when we received the budget in 2020, March 2020, right when COVID hit, we had to reduce the budget by like...I think over \$50 million. And so, the way we did it, because anyone could come up with an idea and whoever's going to vote on it, that it be divided amongst those that vote on it. So, if it's \$90,000 and all nine vote on it, then every Councilmember gets \$10,000 to their credit. If you're...if you want to calculate it out and be fair, instead of I don't...some mysterious pot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Interesting that all of you should vote on it, but...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, it's...it's been done before, and you were on the Council when I did it. So, yeah --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that's a fair way to do it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right. Members, any other thoughts before we move into the department? Oh, Mister...Member Johnson? Sorry, I had to use you as an example.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, that...that brought my...my point that I want to make is that, you know, I knew, and we all knew this was coming, that we were all going to raid one pot, and then what do we do? And I hear what Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez is saying, that's the way it used to be done. So, one thing that I try to do is I try to add more than one offset. You know, like I figured people would want this one particular pot. I won't name which one, but there's a pot that I saw. Everybody's going to go into that one. So, then maybe how about this other? So, we try to get a little creative, but I'm just trying to add that to what my process was.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, we...I'm sure we all do. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, just...but yeah, I wanted to add that. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So, let us begin.

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

April 20, 2026

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, the cross...the crosswalk as reference, is that what you're saying?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That and...and Kauanoe's stuff . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Kauanoe. All right. So, what we're going to do is we're going to take up Bill 55. Okay. We'll begin with the Office...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are we starting with the Legislative Branch?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are we starting with A or the legislative side?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to start with legislative.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll do County Clerk. So...and County Clerk, I'm going to put my papers aside, for Members' priorities, there were none. Operating budget in Bill 55, look at page 2. There are...are there any proposed amendments to the operating budget for the Office of County Clerk? I don't think so, after what we just said. Okay. Member Paltin, you have a discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a proposal for cuts to fund one of my priorities. Should I state what the cuts are now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is this to all your A Account?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. For Clerks. So, Staff, you're going to take this down, right? Or do you have a copy of her...do you have a copy of her spreadsheet? Can we get a copy of your...can Staff get a copy, you have a spreadsheet?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They have one, but she can pass it out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Some of the information was confidential because it comes from the Budget Details, so they just have to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- redact that part when they upload it to Granicus.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. But it is redacted, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Huh? Yeah, that's the one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It is redacted.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But you don't want the redacted one because you can see the information.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. But you're going to post this on Granicus, right? And so, it cannot be...it has to be the redacted.

MR. KRUEGER: So, Chair, admittedly, right, we're distributing a redacted one. We're not, admittedly, able to distribute an unredacted one in open session. That's...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cannot.

MR. KRUEGER: That's kind of the advice that we're under right now. But I believe what's being distributed does have position numbers, so Members can verify that with their unredacted version at the appropriate time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, I move to reduce Category A appropriation by \$86,628. And this corresponds to...and it's just a suggestion for the office, they can take the money wherever they want. But mine was to delete funding for P-25486 and P-29672. One has been vacant since 2019, and the other has been vacant since 2024. My understanding is they're going through like some sort of reorg to classify these as higher-paying jobs so that they could actually recruit and retain somebody. But being that we've funded those positions since 2019 and 2024 respectively, we just need to stop doing that until they come up with a viable plan for what they're going to reallocate it to. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, can you give the dollar amount again?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The dollar amount is \$86,628.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Motion made by Member Paltin, seconded by Member U'u-Hodgins for County Clerk, and the positions are on this spreadsheet for \$86,628.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, and to be clear, they can just...they don't have to listen to it. That's just my rationale for the dollar amount cut. They can do whatever they want.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But it'll be \$86,000 less.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, this is all for A Account.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member Batangan has his hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So, it's hard because we're working off the redacted sheet, but the 86 is the decrease in Category A, including the decrease in fringe, or that's excluding the decrease in fringe?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had a separate plan for the fringe that will come to fruition potentially when my priority comes up.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'll be voting no. The County Clerk's Office is...you know, is a little bit unusual because they...they have greater needs spontaneously as...as they work through the campaign season, through the election season, and I'd...I'd hate to jeopardize their operations by limiting their...the A Account. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, did...did...no? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I don't have any response. I just disagree.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I have a question. So, if we defund a position, but the E/P is still on the books, the Department can still recruit for the position, correct? That's what the active recruitment lists are. So, if they do hire, we are required to pay them. So, would the Department then just come back for a budget amendment? So, us --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They could.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- us decreasing the funding now doesn't prohibit the Department from filling the vacancy. That's...I just want to make sure I'm clear. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, who I don't know if your hand was up first. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can't...we can't just amend the budget in the fiscal year, like to give like...this is when we're...we're setting revenue. So, if we don't have revenue to pay people, we're not going to magically make it appear mid-fiscal year. This is the time that we generate the appropriate amount of revenue to pay the people we need to do the work the community needs us to do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I was going to add --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- that I know she...she said this already, but we used to go like position by position. But even when you were Deputy Director for Transportation, we kind of shifted to just give like a...just a general cut to salaries that should allow you guys some cushion in flexibility. But that's what I was kind of going to ask is, I know Member Paltin asked before on our second time...at least my second time during the budget, if that worked out for you folks, like when we used to cut just like a number in salaries but leave your positions open. So, I'm sure you know how it works better than we because I never...I...I never sat on Administration. So, was that okay for you? And with --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- a whole bunch of Carryover/Savings, I think we do have...we found so much money this year in the budget for all of the budget amendments that we had. So, not only did we have \$174 million worth of Carryover/Savings, every time we did a budget amendment, we used Carryover/Savings. So, perhaps you can tell us what it was like.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Yes. So, I did appreciate that flexibility, you know, when I was a department head to be able to move monies around and fill needs as needed. And I think that did actually save us from having to come back for an amendment at one point. And then to your point, yes, I...I have been operating under the assumption that there will still be Carryover/Savings that could be used to fill these two. Like I...I...I don't think that this is...just because we cut the position now that there won't be an ability to...the Department won't have the ability to transmit a budget amendment in the future if one is needed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I just wanted to --

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- say that in Fiscal Year '24, their Carryover/Savings was 258,000 plus, and in Fiscal Year '25, their Carryover/Savings was 398,000 plus. So, I felt like 86,000 could be absorbed.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Is that only for A or is that...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Only for A.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Mahalo, Chair. Okay. We're on the Clerk's Office, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, so we're not doing Admin. So, we can't take Carryover/Savings from the Admin side. We can only amend our own budget, the Legislative budget. We don't have the power to amend the Administration's budget. So, we can't just pull from them. It's...it's different.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have to acknowledge that difference. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And it would still need to be certified.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Member Rawlins-Fernandez is correct. My understanding, though, is that we're not pulling from that. We're acknowledging that by eliminating this amount of funding, they have the opportunity that the Administration can utilize those funds. It's...it's the...acknowledging that the Carryover/Savings the Administration has for their budget amendments, they've come during last year repeatedly for a variety of things by cutting back on a department. And they have internal Carryover/Savings, which demonstrates that they historically

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

April 20, 2026

have had the capacity to cover that amount. That's my understanding. I'm asking for clarification.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, Member...Member Cook, are you asking the Clerk's Office to ask the Administration to do a budget amendment for them?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because we're doing County Clerk right now, right?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, I'm looking --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's what we're doing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- at the historical...historical numbers that they had excess of that amount in those two years. And that if they were short this amount in either one of those years, they would have had the funds to expend.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But we're...so...but the proposal we're taking up is the County Clerk's Office right now. So, not a department, not --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's not on the...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- it's not the admin side.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct, I'm speaking generally. The...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right, right, right. But right now, this proposal is for the County Clerk.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. So, Member Paltin, you were going to say something? You weren't. So, in your spreadsheet, I just want to say the months funded for these two positions is zero, and the months cut is 12.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I'm proposing deleting the funding for these two positions because both of them haven't been filled in excess of two years. And what

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

April 20, 2026

the Clerk has repeatedly told us is that they're trying to do some sort of reorg where they could classify these positions at a higher wage because the wage that Personnel is allowing them to post it at is not attracting anyone because it's not a living wage. And so, if the position won't be filled until they're able to do that reorg, I don't want people to come back and keep telling me, we're going to figure something out. I want them to come back and say, we figured it out, this is how much money we need to attract someone and give it to us, and then I'll give it to them. But since 2024, since 2019, since the former incumbents of the position resigned or left the position, they haven't been able to attract anyone because it doesn't pay a living wage. And with the way living prices are going, I don't anticipate them ever being able to attract someone until they do that. And so, this is kind of my nudge. Like I'm not going to keep funding a vacant position that's never going to be filled because it doesn't attract qualified candidates because it doesn't pay a living wage. Like if you want this money, do the reorg, classify it higher so we can put somebody in it. Like...it's like just saying like oh, well, we don't have any park security officers. Let's put another one on because we need it, but nobody's applying for the job, you know. Like just trying to be realistic.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Members...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I have one more question.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sorry, I couldn't write as fast as Member Paltin was talking, but in '25, you said there was \$398,000 of Carryover/Savings for the Clerks...or for this Department. Can you tell me what you said for, and...and perhaps I misheard, but can then...you confirm that? Can you tell me what you said for Fiscal Year '24, please, so I can write that down?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, 2025 carryover was \$398,771.64, and in 2024, A Category for the County Clerks was \$258,183.95.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. We have to be careful with the County Clerk's Office. As I mentioned earlier, they're not...they're very unique. They have to have extra money in case there's a special election. You know, there are other unforeseen expenses that come up with them, and, you know, we're talking about \$86,000 out of a \$1 billion budget. There's millions in other departments. This is...I think we should just leave them alone. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, anybody else? So, we do have a motion on the floor. Member Paltin, second by Member U'u-Hodgins for this particular two positions, correct?

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The two positions is a justification. They have flexibility to move it around if they want to.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, it's \$86,628. Yeah? Okay. So, Members, is this a roll call?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can I ask a question real quick?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is this a particular priority you're trying to fund, Councilmember Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is a series of cuts to fund my \$6 million Lahaina Community Land Trust. It...it adds up. It won't make or break it. I have, you know, like I said, things up my sleeve if I need to find other money. I don't have it all written out though. I can go home and written out...write out my extra money pots tonight, I guess, or at another time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like Kauanoe, I don't...I'd ask for some grace to come up with second whatevers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's three "ayes," six "noes." Motion fails.

VOTE: AYES: Vice-Chair Batangan and Councilmembers Paltin and Sinenci.

NOES: Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, and U'u-Hodgins.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION FAILS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, remains...you have to get more up your sleeve. Okay. All right. So, let's see, Operating Budget, which is on page 2, are there any proposed amendments to the operating budget?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Now would be probably the time if Member Batangan wants to do his percentage thing, but I wouldn't be supportive of it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan? Okay. So...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sure, if you would like me to go over theirs now, my proposal was to cut \$42,816 just off the top of the County Clerks. You know, one, I think they could absorb it. I think really, any department could absorb a 1.25 cut from their general funded...their --

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- general-funded appropriations but especially given the Carryover/Savings that Member Paltin had explained to us earlier, I think that it's something that they'd be able to absorb. You're welcome...I'm happy to make the motion and we can --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- take it up now, but I'm also happy to hold off on my more...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, let's take it up.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, since we've taken up...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess I would...I would move...so I move to decrease the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Category A, Category B.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah, I didn't...I didn't break mine down by A...A and B, I just did totals off of mine, which is why I hesitated, Chair, it's because I was trying to do the math in my head as I'm making the motion. But I guess it would just be off the total, one-third of which would be from A, two-thirds would be from Operations and Equipment to the effect of \$42,816.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, this is part of the issue with us not being able to coordinate beforehand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Sunshine.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I brought it as a...as a proposal and didn't know that this is how the information was going to be requested by the other Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep, our constraints are Sunshine. Second?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'll second for discussion, but I won't be supporting it. I was just in communication with the Clerks and they did hire six new people, so they wouldn't be able to withstand the budget cut right now during election year.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. And in fairness to what Member Paltin had originally said in response to my proposal, if I were to revise this, the Office of the County Clerks

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

April 20, 2026

would have been one of the departments that I would have removed from consideration in this proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, I'm also okay not --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- making this --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- at this...at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we'll delete this from the overall then, correct? I...I...you can hear the votes. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I would support taking County Clerk off of this. I think even though we...we can't give them more money, the...that Department, what they have to work with, and it's just...even if it's just a morale boost that we're supportive of the Department by not cutting any of the funds, I think is something we could give them. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So, Members, I'm going to move on, right? Or do you guys need to take a vote? It doesn't sound like it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're not going to take it. Member...Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I support moving on. I don't care to vote on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I just have to do a Sunshine disclaimer because my children are now home from school, and so is my adult husband, Makena Fernandez.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wonderful.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura says hi, everyone.
...*(laughing)*...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Welcome home. Member Batangan, Staff is asking you to say you're withdrawing your proposal.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I withdraw the motion. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. That's clearer.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And since I have the floor, I would also like to say hello to Member Rawlins-Fernandez's 'ohana.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . Oh, look at that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Say aloha.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aww.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Okay. Very good. Now we're going to go on to capital improvements. There are no capital improvements proposed for County Clerks, and then the next section is Appendix A, Part I, Grants, Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenue. There are no grants or Special Purpose Revenues for County...County Clerks. Rates and fees, the Ramseyer version, page 3. Members, are there any proposed amendments to the rates and fees for Office of County Clerk? Seeing none. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I had a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- proposed amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you do. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For rates and fees --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- on the CD-ROM one. Shoot. It said something different. I wasn't prepared for this part.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Director Milner, do you remember the wording to change the CD-ROM part in the rates and fees to? It's something like changing the CD-ROM to like records.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Is this about the real property tax map CD-ROM?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Because nobody --

MS. MILNER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- does CD-ROM --

MS. MILNER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- anymore.

MS. MILNER: Real property tax map files.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's my motion. I move to change CD-ROM to real property tax what she said.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Real property tax, what was the last word did you say?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Files.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, files.

MS. MILNER: Real property tax map files.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Map files. Okay. So, somebody knows where the CD-ROM is, right?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Where is it . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Rates and fees...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: General Fund.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And it's County Clerk is on page 3. Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Staff's understanding is that this is a Department of Finance item. It's on page 16 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: -- of the...of the normal Appendix B.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, my bad. Withdraw.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Withdraw. We'll take it up at the Finance appropriate time. Put a stick 'em [sic]. All right. So, if there's nothing else for the Office of County Clerk...boy, sounds like we can almost do consensus for this one, huh. Are you guys in consensus?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Consensus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, sounds like we didn't do all the other stuff. Okay. So, County Clerk is done.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a clarifying question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, for the County Clerk in Appendix B, there is a charge for election files. Is that what Member Paltin was talking about? Because at one point, it was CD-ROM or CD, and then we...I thought...I thought we changed it to flash drive or something like that. Anyway, it's in Appendix B, rates and fees under County Clerk.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Staff, do you know what it is?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's the election...election files.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If that's the . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, right here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, we already changed that one to storage device. This one is for Finance's one. Just, you know, keeping with the times --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because I think we did want to say flash drive instead of CD, but then who knows if flash drive becomes...so storage device. We already did that one.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. I just wanted to make sure, since we're in Clerks and you were talking about the CD.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, it looks like we're done with County Clerks, right? And I believe we can get consensus on this one, right? Is...are all of you okay? Consensus for County Clerk?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Consensus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Put this on the yay pile. Now, for Office of Council Services. All right. So, Member Batangan, Member Paltin...well, first we have to take up priority. So, there's no priorities for Council Services, number one. In Operating Budget under the budget bill, page 2, are there any proposed amendments to the Operating Budget for Council Services?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just Member Batangan's one, I believe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Which is the...Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, am I the only one proposing a cut? I thought I saw a lot of people trying to raid Council Services' budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I...I would like to go after, because I got to calculate out the CIP that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- everybody is proposing to raid.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...right. Okay. We will...we will not go, we won't do the...no, we can do the budget bill, right? Well, yours would be the only one.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Are we done?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member Cook and Member Johnson had...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We're on County Clerk, right?

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

April 20, 2026

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, County...Office of Council Services.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Council Services, I mean. Thanks. Hey, Chair, excuse me, I'm going to be back in a minute. I have to go put on my other hearing aids.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Come back.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: These just died.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Okay. You want us to...you want us to take a recess? Let's take a recess, so understand. 2:40...what time is it? 2:44, so 2:47. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 2:44 p.m.
RECONVENE: 2:57 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Okay. Welcome back. 2:57. So, we are on Office of Council Services, and we are talking about Operating Budget. And do we have any amendments? Which is Bill 55, and it's page 2. No? Oh, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I have the breakouts by A and B Categories now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, I would like to propose that we cut Office of Council Services' A Account by 99,100...or 99,819, and B Account by 44,427.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that a motion?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, that is a motion. So, that would be cut A Account by 99,819, and B by 44,427.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 44,427.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And then if I get a second, I have additional discussion to share as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Discussion?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, discussion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you. In FY '25, just for everybody's reference, the unspent appropriations in Council Services' A Account was 432,584, and B Account...I must be reading this wrong because I don't think Council Services is pulled out from County Council on this, and I apologize, Chair. But I still maintain that they can maintain a 1-1/2...or 1-1/4 percent cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I disagree. We just hired three new people, not...four...four new people the other day. We're going to be fully staffed, and we're going to need every penny we have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have a cut for CIP. I'll wait until after this. I just wanted to let the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- body know that I have it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So, the motion on the floor is to cut for Office of Council Services the amounts that Member Batangan said is \$99,819, and 44,437 [sic]. Is that correct?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: 427 for Category B.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 427. Okay. 44,427. Okay. And that was made by Member Batangan. Chair...Member Cook, right, was the second. All right. Any discussion? Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I guess this question will be for Chair Lee, because I don't think we have David, but...so we hired three new people, yeah? But I know we lost a couple, and soon to maybe lose one more. Are they the same, like the same positions or different positions? I wonder if you could tell us. Because I...I know for a fact we're losing one in a bit, but then Member Paltin was

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

April 20, 2026

telling me we lost somebody else, but I didn't know who that was. So, I'm wondering if you could tell me.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, we're losing one, at least one. You're talking about Kasie?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, but I wasn't going to say that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I didn't know how to put it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: My God.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, that's true. I think...I think people know that already, though.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, I know, and then...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't think they knew it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The world didn't know.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. Oh...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I know, and by the way --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good thing they're not watching.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- as you know, she's one of my favorites, so I'm...I'm really sad about it, but I'm happy for her, but I'm very sad. That's why I didn't want to put it out there and say her name, but I know that we lost somebody else. Yes, no? Did we lose other OCS employees, or we just picked up...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Not that I know of, as of today.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, did we lose somebody named Tiare?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Don't ask her if it's a secret.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I know. No can keep secrets, girl, we're on camera.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Me too. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Maybe you got to tell her, because...

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm not sure what she meant. But I'm saying, we do need the money. If you don't think we do, don't. If you think we don't need the money, then, you know, just vote accordingly, but I believe that we're not...we don't have the luxury of 60 vacancies and, you know, 30 vacant. We're talking about one, maybe. . . .*(laughing)*. . . That's the question here, okay?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Motion on the floor. Ready to vote, Members? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Roll call. Okay. Go ahead, roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just want to clarify, this is A and B together?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Well, not together, it's separate, but it's the same motion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No.

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's three "ayes," six "noes." The motion fails.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmember Cook.

NOES: Councilmembers Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION FAILS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'd support just B.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have a motion to reduce the CIP project by \$1.5 million for the new funding of \$400,000. The project will not be completed in FY 2027 based on the uncertainty of permitting and relocation of existing departments located on the 6th Floor. I just...what we've experienced recently from Department of Personnel Services and other departments that have been sprouting up and moving and shuffling around, finding the lease space and addressing the various issues to do...to get a new office established, \$400,000 should get it started.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm all supportive of them doing what they're intending to do. My reason for cutting it isn't that I'm not supportive, it's because I really don't believe that that...all of those monies will be expend...needed or expended in FY '27. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, your motion is for 1.5 million deletion?

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct, and that's my offset for Ka'ahumanu Church.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Later. Any second?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm not seconding, I just wanted to make sure that he's deleting the entire amount, not just a portion...or just a portion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He's only...he's leaving --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Leaving 400,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- 400,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Leaving 400,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Just wanted to check.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For design or whatever.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm still voting no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I...a point of information --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- how this works, because I think Member Johnson also had a thing where he was...so just wondering how that works. Because that was also Member Johnson's proposal, so when we bang-bang on --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: A...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- priorities, somebody has to choose. Now we're bang-banging on --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Offsets.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- offsets. So, just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I think Member U'u-Hodgins and Member Rawlins-Fernandez were alluding to it, and this is the case by case, so how are we going to address this case?

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so I will answer this for what I'm seeing, is that I think this is going to happen as we go further into the priorities, and then, you know, the offsets, right? The offsets is what is...is what you're talking about now, and I think the offsets, we put it in a pot, and then we figure out where we are at the end of the day, because the adds are what Members focused on, and then the offsets came with it. So, in this case, you are already taking off your offset, right, or...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I apologize to the body if I've thrown a wrench in it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- but basically, I was just clarifying what it was. I...I concur. Anyway, that's...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I feel...I feel I'm very supportive of Office of Council Services, and the reason I'm leaving \$400,000 is to have funding...adequate funding. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I predicted this was going to happen...oh, beg your pardon.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mic.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I predicted this was going to happen, so I...that's why I have offset one, which would be like the way I would have done it, but if people didn't like my first choice of offsets, then I would go to offset two, which is the one that you and I share. So, you can take that offset for yours, because I still have strategies to do my offsets for my priority, but understanding, Members, that that's what I'm trying to do. There might be something that you might not have agreed with one of my other offsets to meet...to meet that number that I'm trying to get to, but we both have that, and then...I don't know, this is kind of, in my mind, we're doing it a little bit backwards, where I would say, add up our priorities, add up our deductions, what's the difference, work that out, but it doesn't seem...I feel like we're getting...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it's getting muggy.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Like you mentioned wrenches. We got a toolbox full of wrenches, the way this meeting's going right now.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm getting a little bit...

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We should focus on the adds, and then that'll bring up the...the offsets, and look at it, you know, it's not going to be one or the other. So, I hear you. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, I didn't see your hand.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So, this is why process is important, so that we understand what we're doing, otherwise, we end up like this. And this is just day one, so we can still develop some kind of like a process. Otherwise, every time we come to a case-by-case basis, and then this is going to happen. I'm supportive of Member Cook's proposal. I'll vote for it. But again, what I'm hearing you just say is that we're going to put it into a bucket that everyone is going to share, because you want to keep the Mayor's total proposed budget number the same, and offset it so that it's the same --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, that's...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that we're sharing it...well, because it's not clear, and it's not clear to anyone. So, if you could maybe like clarify it for yourself, so that you can clarify it for the Committee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, when we...when we take up the departments, if you have an add...let's start from talking about adds, and then what is the offset, right? And so --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we're getting confused, because this is actually an offset that you're going to be adding to offset your Ka'ahumanu Church for 1.5 million. And that's going to come up later on in the budget when we talk about, I think, the Mayor or Office of...yeah, Mayor, which is another department. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think your camera's off.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. As far as confusion, I'm cutting 1.5 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, the add and the subtract, I need to get clarity on that. We're doing cuts in departments, and then we're going to do adds. I brought it up at the same time, but primarily right now, are we focusing on addressing the Department, identifying where we feel that there's an excess in A, B, or C, and then voting on that, and then moving on. So, we're working on all the cuts first.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're actually working on --

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Pardon?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- department by department is what we're doing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, department by department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: But I'm just trying to get clarity on add or cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: These are cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, yours is a cut.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On...I have a point of information --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . 400,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for process.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For process point of information, for this thing, if everyone would number the pages so that when we go to the page, then we can say what they are, that's my process. Like I put one, two, three, so when you're looking at your thing, then you can say, I'm on page 9. So, that's my contribution to the process for a point of information. Because there's not numbers, and all you got to do is write the little number at the bottom of the page yourself, and then when you're looking at your cut or your add, then you can say, I'm on this page, and then we can all follow along.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What...what form are you looking at?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...the priority matrix and offsets.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. The...the whole thing. Okay. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'll be a lot easier for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And all of us. So, I'm going to call a recess. Three...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Wait, can I ask a question before we go...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I would like to ask this question before we go into recess, in case somebody needs to look this up. But I'm looking at OCS' response to the questions about how they would spend this money. So, I did ask what's the timeline for the renovations. But if somebody could let me know if like we already filed for permits, and where we are in the permitting process. Because with these...with like County funds, with government funds, it's got to be ADA-permitted, and then you get...so you got to go through this whole permit process. If somebody could answer where we are in the permit process, I would appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. For OCS.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Do you know?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I did ask that during the process, and I was told they were thinking that they wouldn't really need permits. I thought the plumbing and electrical, they would, but their thought was they were . . . *(inaudible)*. . . mostly...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Interior nonstructural stuff?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. I...and I questioned that simply because, like you say, the...I don't know, I think every activity that we do --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- permitting gets sticky. I would hope not, but I don't have much confidence they're just going to be able to avoid permits.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And then I think we asked also the other departments, I think Personnel, was it Personnel who said they won't be able to move in until December 27th, or start at December 27th, so there's like...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . didn't know that they were going to move. Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, there's some disconnects going on, and --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- 'Ōiwi wants that to be a museum, and I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Wait.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Doesn't sound like there's definitive ideas.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Chair Lee? Why are we having all these questions and discussion now? I mean, how come these questions didn't come up when the department came up?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think it did.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: We didn't have this Department up. We didn't have OCS...well, at least then, I wasn't here --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- for OCS' Department, but I'm trying to...for the reason why I'm asking, is if we're going to vote on this cut, then I would want to justify why I'm supporting it, because I didn't propose this cut.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And then, I think we...we talked about this before, because I believe...at least I have told...told you guys on a number of occasions, that we need space for our...for the...for OCS, so that we can have 6, 7, and 8 together. Yeah. Apparently...apparently...yeah, the 6th Floor, the 7th Floor, and the 8th Floor. Apparently, the...the Kalana Pukui Building is not suitable for us, because originally, we were promised to have the Planning Commission conference room and the 2nd floor, and we're not getting it, so it's not helping one bit. And then, we have the...the lack of coordination sometimes with them being over there...our Staff being over there when they should be close to us, you know, immediate contact. So, that's the reason why we are trying to...and we have worked out an agreement with the Administration that we are going to have the 6th Floor, and that is the reason why DPS already is planning to move to another place. Where they move is their...you know, their choice, it's not our choice. But we are going to have the 6th Floor. And because it's already, you know, arranged, it's not like we're going to be knocking down walls, except we might expand the conference room in the back, the lunchroom, but that's it. Everything else stays the same. We do need to redesign the major area where there's a lot of open space. We might...we'll be probably putting more offices, yeah. So, it's all internal stuff. It's not...we're not changing the building or anything like that. So, at this point, in my estimation, we probably don't need the full amount at this time, but we are going to need either half or close to half for the redesigning and all the other things that we have to do.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm going to call a recess, just so we can get clarity on your questions on how we're handling it, because it's...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And one more thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One more thing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know, we're never going to get to second base at the rate we're going. So, either we...as you had started, I think, only do adds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Adds, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And forget...because we don't want to know where you're planning to put the money at this point, because then we're going to all have to vote on it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but then we're going to have to go back to a thing that we already closed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But then we'll have to go back to a...like we finished County Clerk, we're not going back. But if we don't take the cut up when we do the department, then we're not closing anything. We're going to have to go back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no. But what I'm saying, not...don't take the...I'm not saying to not take up the cut. I'm saying take up the cut, but work out...negotiate what you're going to do with the cut money at a later time --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- because we're going one by one by one by one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like if they're going to share it?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, they're going to share it, you know, stuff like that. Yeah, do the adds and the cuts, but don't have to share where you're going to spend it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'll take my toolbox off the table so we can focus on one thing and move forward.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, we're going too slow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I going take a recess.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go...no, we got to get clarity, right? Got to get clarity, because I think everybody's like, what is that?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Once we get into a rhythm, I think we'll be --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- be okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we'll come back at what, 3:25, 3:24. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 3:17 p.m.
RECONVENE: 3:34 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Thanks. Okay. Welcome back. It's 3:34, and just to kind of unsort this discussion. So, by department, we're going to go through the matrix, which is all the priorities that you received. I don't know how many pages, I didn't finish numbering my pages. But thank you, OCS, for that. And then...so, if it's your priority for the department, you will identify the priority, and then state your offset. And I think we're...okay. Offsets may be a duplicate from another Member, but that's okay. After all items are discussed, then Staff will calculate adds and...adds and offsets. Committees will work together to resolve the difference. So, present your adds and your offset when we come up with a department, right? And we're not going to argue who gets the offset, right? We want you to agree on what the add is, and then we'll take it to the next step. We are going to go through department by department and take up, you know, priorities, and then the Operating Budget, CIP, and go down the row, finish with that. We're probably not going to get consensus until later, is my guess. And we will all look for more cuts as we go through the department. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I didn't...can you clarify if we're doing the offset with the department, or we're going to come back to do the offset when we do the add?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're going to do the add, mention the offset, and vote on that, right, from the Members. They agree with that or not, and we're not going to fight over who gets that offset.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The part I don't understand is...like, so we're in Council Services right now. Nobody has an add for Council Services, but people have a cut for Council Services. Are we going to do the cut and just not worry who to attribute the money for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- their add to?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- so, I'm going to ask, Member Cook, if you could withdraw your motion, and we will take it up at the appropriate time. Because yours is a cut.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'll withdraw my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Huh? I'm sorry. You withdraw? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Per request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We didn't have a second.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'll request...I withdraw my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, I'm a little confused on the appropriate time. So...because the initial matrix that we were using was the crosswalk.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And so, like, according to that, we were...I thought this was the appropriate time. Are...am I...am I just missing something? Are we switching over to the Members' proposal matrix now, and that's why I'm...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no, no, you're...you're right.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Where's my crosswalk?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, it's not the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, when we are presenting our...our proposed adds and subtractions, we're still taking them up in the order of the crosswalk, not the...not the...

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bill 55.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah, not the...I don't know, the 11 by 17 matrix.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: It's department by department?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I think what...the priorities you're talking about?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah, yeah. Sorry --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- the...the priorities matrix.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the priorities matrix is what you proposed, and it's by department by department. So, it may not have OCS or OCC, because that may not be a priority--an add--it may not be that, but it could be a cut. So, that would be another discussion.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook, and yours is a cut. So, we're talking about adds. We just want to focus on the adds, and what is the offset is where we are. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And so, when we do bring up the offsets, then we'll have a chance to vote on it then?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: When you bring up the adds, you'll bring up the offset, and then we'll vote on that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The...the offset as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The adds. The adds.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just...just the adds, not the offsets.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The adds. Yeah. The offsets are going to be looked at --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Later.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- comprehensively. Yeah, we're going to accumulate it, I guess, is a way to say it, because it won't be a fight between Tom Cook and Member Johnson. It'll be an offset --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- into a pot. Yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we no longer have Member Cook's. Does anybody have...there's no priorities, and there's no --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- adds. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. You keep calling it a pot, and that's not clear. I support doing all the adds and sticking to one department instead of jumping all over the place, because the offset may be in a different department, or the...or the cut may be in this department, but the add is in another department, and that's chaos.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Which is what we're experiencing at a smaller scale, which is great that we're going through the smaller departments first. So, again, I don't think that that process of like having to like fight over whatever low-hanging fruit was the easiest to reduce the budget by...that's not a fair process. I've suggested a more fair process. Second, we are still on Office of Council Services, which is only the second of seven departments you want us to go through, and it's already 3:40. What's the hard stop for today? What's the hard stop for time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I don't have a hard stop, and I was hoping we could get through Department of Environment...DEM. I was hoping we could go that far.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, even if we end up going to midnight, we're going to go until we finish DEM. Is that what you're telling me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's...it's really up to you guys. That was my wish, and we're sorting out things that we need to, and hopefully we can move faster, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because if we had a clear process that didn't cause confusion, we would be moving faster.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're trying. We are. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess the part that I don't understand of the process is, all of my cuts are to fund my adds, and I don't have any cuts just for the sake of cuts. And so, then what we're doing right now is just adding to the budget, and then we're going to come around a second time and cut to the budget, is what you're saying?

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your situation, and Member Batangan, right? You guys are going...looking at cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I'm...I'm not just cutting for the sake of cutting. I mean, I could do that, but in the past, it's been frowned upon. . . .*(laughing)*. . . And so, then I'm not wasting my time just cutting for the sake of cutting. I'm cutting for the sake of adding. But it sounds like to me what you said is, we're going to go through the whole budget and make our adds, and then we're going to go through a second time and make our cuts?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I think your situation--and correct me if I'm wrong--because you have to come up to whatever it is your add is that is on...it's on the matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Doesn't everybody have to come up to what their...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, but yours is also listed, your cuts that you're proposing or your offsets is your long matrix, correct?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're offsetting it to something. So, we haven't come to your add yet to come to the matrix, so maybe we're taking up your offsets too early, is what you're saying.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I kind of want to just go through it one time instead of going through it two times because this is painful enough one time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...can I ask you a question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you say one time. Do you mean you want to bring up your add and then do all the offsets?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I don't want to bring up my add, per se.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think whenever...whatever we have to deal with that's in Council Services should be dealt with in Council Services --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because even...I'm okay with some of my offsets or cuts funding other people's things if people don't vote for my add. It's a...I want all the adds that I proposed, but if I don't get five votes, I'm not going to be hoarding my cuts if there's somebody else's add that I'm supportive of. So, I just want to go through it

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

April 20, 2026

one time. So, whatever cuts we have for Council Services, whatever adds we have for Council Services, don't come back to Council Services. When we're done with Council Services, I want to be done with Council Services and never come back...in two years as well, but that's besides the point. And then when we do Ag, I don't want to do all my adds and then come back to Ag, you know. I want to...one time is more than enough for me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I guess if we keep a running total of cuts and don't attribute it to any one Member, that would be the way to go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, we're not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Although we could give like, you know, a push prize for the person that has the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Has the most.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- most cuts and just say like, you're the winner for today or something, and it'll be a verbal prize.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: An atta boy. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No patting on the back though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just a thought.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, let's proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is it really necessary that we go through all the departments? No, I'm just...just...just think of this as a...as a thought, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. We'll listen to you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because when we first started out, I thought we were going through pretty good. You know, somebody said...gave their priority and, you know, their offsets, and we worked it out, and then they went to the next one. And then all of a sudden, we stopped and we kind of --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Stuck.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- went back to the idea of, oh, no, let's...let's have the department list lead the parade. You know, and I think that's where we went off track. But I just...I'm just trying to think --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How to do this faster?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- of what is the best, quickest way...because I'm not sure that going through every department is. I mean, I don't know how anybody else thinks. Didn't we start off on a pretty good foot?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But we were going department by department.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're only on the second department, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, we are going to focus on the adds, and, you know, the cuts will come up...or the offsets will come up as we talk about the adds.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Could...I just like clarity first. I'm confused a little bit. We're going to talk...when we're talking about cuts, we're talking about --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Offsets.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- a department, whatever department it is, where we're...we're making a reduction in either the A, B, or C, or the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- CIP account. So, those are cuts. And adds are the things that we're going to do to add to the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your priority.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Because we keep...I...I think the terms are getting thrown around a lot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, if we focus on cuts, we're focusing on cuts, and then we're going to address the adds that are all of our priorities. Is that correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're focusing on your priorities, and...

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: But a cut is a cut, it's not an add.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: An offset is the same thing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, offset.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, sorry if I'm making confusion. Okay. Where are...I believe, to answer your question, we need to go through all the departments. We cannot...we cannot skip. Because not only is it going to be your priorities, but every...you know, just all --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just once though, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the different parts of the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just once.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we are in Office of Council Services, right? And Members' priorities, there are none for adds for Office of Council Services. And the confusion came on when we started talking about the...the cuts, right? So, we're not going to talk about that for now. It'll come up eventually when we talk about the adds. For Operating Budget, which is on page 2...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can we not do that? Can we just go through it once, and then...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I object. I also object.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because that's going to be coming back. Let's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- just do the cuts as we do the department, and Jarret can keep a...a running total of the cuts, and we'll divvy them up with the adds that get added.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We're going to talk about the adds as we go through the department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the cuts. But we're not going to attribute --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the cut to any one person.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You know why? Because yours is a cut. That's why you're thinking that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And Tom's right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And Gabe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. Because if we do the cuts again...if we do the cuts later on, then we're doing the departments more than once, is what I'm saying. Like, I want to be done with Council Services and never come back. I want to be done with Ag and never come back.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: One and done.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One and done.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, can I ask you a quick question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Are you planning on...like, so we're going to go department to department. So, right now we're on Council Services. We're going to talk about any additions to Council Services, whatever. And then before we move on from Council Services, talk about the cuts in Council Services?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And it's...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hypothetically, because this is what we're on, but as we go through the entire department, are you going to structure our conversation as we talk about each department, about what we plan on adding, and then what we plan on cutting in each department? Like, you're going to separate it by talking about the additions first in each department, and then talking about the cuts in each department?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the....that's what...that's what got us confused earlier, right? Because Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, that's kind of what I'm confused with. I don't think you want to go through the entirety of the budget, and then on Friday go, okay, let's start from the top, and go, here's where we're cutting. I don't think that's what you're saying.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I...I believe that --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I hope not.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the thought is to hear your adds, mention your cuts, right? And then...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Vote on the cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But before we move on from the department...but we can just mention the adds, okay. Like...like hypothetically, if we...and sometimes because they come from all the different departments, so we're trying to reconcile what we're moving monies in. In this situation, where Member Cook is not adding to OCS' budget, but rather cutting --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cutting.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- he wouldn't talk about any adds. We will discuss if we're going to cut from salary A or whatever, and operations in B, and then later CIP, and then right now, he would talk about his...his --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cut.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- cuts to CIP, but we'll do it in that order.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No...oh, I'm asking you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm...I'm...like I was just thinking of only doing the adds, mentioning the cuts, and...but it is causing confusion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's...let's vote on the cuts on their merit. Jarret or James or somebody can--sorry, he's in my line of sight--can keep a running total of the cuts we're making, and then we just divvy them up at the end. Because like Member Rawlins-Fernandez said...oh, the people that vote yes to the cut can divvy it up on the end. The people that vote no don't get a portion of it. I think that's the most fair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sounds good to me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If it wins.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member...Member Sinenci has his hand up. He's had his hand up for a long time, because --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- we're online, and it's harder for you to see us online.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- then Member --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. And...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Just for clarity, so we're going to do additions and reductions. However, the reductions is not going to be connected to any additions in another department. We're just going to go...we're going to go through additions, and then we'll say our reductions in each department, but we're not going to connect it to...to the offset of something else somewhere, yeah? And then we'll...we'll get a running total.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Until the end, is that traceable? Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good job, Member Sinenci.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sounds good. Sound good. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So, I agree with Member Paltin, Member U'u-Hodgins, and Member Sinenci that we stick to one department, we do our priority proposals, we do any reductions to that department, and take up any departmental requests, and then move on to the next department. Exhibit 1 is how we keep track of all the changes, and that will help us tally all the amounts --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- if that is what we're going to end up doing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Member Johnson, you look like you need to say something.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, I'm not a wrench thrower, but I will ask a question. I have a proposal. You guys love my proposal. Then I have the cut, or the offset. You didn't like my offset. Can I say, well, okay, maybe we won't cut from that thing that no one wants me to cut from, I'll see you in property tax rates. And that's where I would make it up. So, if I know that you guys aren't really liking my cut, I'll just...I could hold off until property tax rate thing...time, or is that, no, let's not do that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I want to tweak his proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Tweak away.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's what we're trying to avoid, but go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, if we make a cut, my...my proposal is if a cut is made, all the people who vote for that cut get a piece of it in their...in their --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- pot --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- of what they have to add. And at the end of the day, if we don't have enough cuts to fund our adds, then we all work together to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- tweak the rates.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Never mind what I just said. What she just said is fine. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Who...who likes my proposal? Raise your hand.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I want to move on.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I want to move forward. So, if the majority thinks that makes sense to you guys and somebody can keep track of it...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know who I nominated, but that's that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Jarret's not...that's not his job.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but I'm going to keep doing it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Why don't we try it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, let's try it. Let's try it. We got to move forward.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Nobody's going to die. If it doesn't work, we'll switch to something else.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I think Council Service...Council Service is a good place to start.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...so, we are doing adds, right? And so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we're going to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member U'u-Hodgins --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- do --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- will...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- any add, any cut in --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In the department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- this department. The cuts we'll keep track of in a running total who voted for each cut. And each person that voted for a cut, if it's successful, will get an equal portion of that cut to their priorities. And at the end of the day, if there's a shortfall, we'll work on rates together.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it trackable, is my concern.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Kirsten and James, is it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If we can find one person in OCS to track it for us, designate that person.

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

April 20, 2026

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, yes. We're certainly able to track the adds and the cuts. I will say, tracking adds and cuts per Member is...that...that will be a bit more, so we just ask for some grace with that, that's all.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure.

MR. KRUEGER: But...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But we have to vote on each cut, and you're going to have a record of who voted yes and who voted no, right?

MR. KRUEGER: Right. But it's going to be a matter of tallying each Member's...what cuts they voted for and what they...so each Member will have a running total, so to speak. So, that's...that's the part that I see the challenge in, but...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, each Member is responsible for their own running total. No? Or their Staff. Their Staff --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is responsible for it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's so confusing. I do not remember ever having to do this tally.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 2020, we did this. I told you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, when you were Budget Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We did this before. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: When you were Budget Chair, life changed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Exactly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Life changed. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, you're still using my process. This is what I developed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee just went, ah. Okay. Let's go. Let's go. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't want to be here until midnight.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I do not either, but I can. I don't --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- have children at home.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- is it a...I would like to make a motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: To reduce the CIP project by \$1.5 million for a new funding total of \$400,000 in the Office of Council Services.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: This project will not be --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- completed in FY 2027 based on uncertainty of permitting and relocation of existing departments located on 6th Floor. I would hope that the Members would support my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, second is --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Rawlins-Fernandez to your...and the motion is for 1,500 [sic] for...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: \$1.5 million cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1.5 cut, and then the 400,000 to remain in Office of Council Services. Okay. Members, ready to vote?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Consensus or vote?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I support cutting this line item because I don't think that we can encumber all of it in this next year, but I do think that this is a little steep. I would be supportive of Member Johnson's proposal to cut slightly less. And since the money is not necessary to offset everything at this point, I hope Member Cook understands.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Move to amend.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I mean, we can take the vote as it's been moved. I'm just explaining why I'm voting no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'm not necessarily against the...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You shouldn't. You want a piece of it?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll make that motion. I move to amend the motion to...to be Member Johnson's.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, what is your amendment?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson's proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 1 mil.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 1 mil.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm accepting the friendly amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're still looking . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Cool.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: 900,000 minus . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, is it...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Minus one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're saying...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Minus one, leaving nine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's going to be a --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. No, I would...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- instead of 1,900 *[sic]*, it is...

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I would leave...I would --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1.9.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- deduct a million and leave 900,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. The motion is to deduct a million and leave 900,000 for OCS to...it'll be interesting to see this actually happens, but...okay. All in favor of your motion, Member Cook, amended by Member Johnson, say "aye." I think this is a aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yay.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Reduce Office of Council Services' CIP to \$900,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay. Okay. Now we got to...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 1 million divided by 9. Oh, no, no, 100,000 each.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah, 900,000 divided by 9.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's too funny. Okay. Anything else? Nothing else. Okay. And we just covered the CIP. So, Appendix A, Part I, grants...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How much did we cut, a million or 900,000?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. A million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...we left...we left a million [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, we...we took out a million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, we left...we left 900,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm just trying to keep my neighbor straight here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Appendix A, Part I, Grants; Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues; Appendix B, Rates and Fees, and there are no...no adjustments, or no grants, special...there's none. So, anyone have anything to add to this? No. No amendments. All right. So, we are actually...actually done with OCS, is that right? Or Member...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're never coming back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're never coming back. So, Member Paltin, your things are correct, right? You're fine?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I didn't have any cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You didn't have any cuts for...okay. All right. And Member Batangan, you're good with OCS? Okay. Next, County Auditor. Any Member priorities, there's none. Operating Budget, which is on page 2 of 55. Anyone have any proposed amendments? Nothing? Okay. CIP, there's none. Appendix A, Part I, Part II, rates and fees, there are none. So, this is done unless if anybody has amendments. Okay. We're done. Okay. Here's the one that has things happening, which is Department of Ag. What happened here? Okay. Department of Ag, Member priorities, there are six, Members, for the Department of Ag. And we will go down in the list in the order shown. So, Department of Ag, in the Member priorities, the first one is mine, and it's a condition. Department of Ag Agriculture Program, Grants and Disbursements for Agriculture Promotion, I, Agriculture Operations, Infrastructure, Education, and add a new condition to Agriculture Operations, Infrastructure, Education appropriation to read as follows...I, that was one, up to 564,000 must be for the Maui County Farm Bureau, and that total amount was requested by the Maui County Farm Bureau, and acknowledged in...by the Department saying that...and this is...the Department basically said, Maui County Farm Bureau presented to the Department as community impact, asked these, and it was the intent of the Department to find them. However,

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

April 20, 2026

there was a miscommunication between our Department and the Budget Office, and after discussion with Budget Director on the possibility of adding funding to Fiscal Year '27, if they're not added as a line item, the current option is for Maui County Farm to apply with...under the competitive pot. So, I'm adding them in, is what that is.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So move.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. U'u-Hodgins, second by Member Paltin. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Add a new condition of up to \$564,000 for the Maui County Farm Bureau.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hey. Yay. Moving right along here. Okay. Put this aside, and...okay. Mine is...mine is a condition, yeah? So, next one is Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I move to increase local food purchasing incentive Farm to Family Grant by 1 million for a total of 2 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Batangan?

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, may I speak to it, or...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, you must speak to it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Initially...or increase 1 million to a total of 2 million. 2 million was initially approved last year during budget session, but the Committee initiated a cut at the end of decisions week, and we heard from testifiers about the need for affordable local produce and the need to support local families. Support food and nutritional...so it supports the Food and Nutritional Security Plan Objective 1.4, develop innovative programs to increase access to nourishing cultural-relevant foods and lower rates of chronic diseases, especially in rural area and Pacific Islander communities. Forty-one percent of Maui County households were food insecure, according to Hawai'i Food Bank's 2025 report. And unless we act, food insecurity is likely to get worse with the impact from recent storms and the war. Remember, Members, we are at war right now. This family...this Farm to Family Program supplements food pantries and feeding programs so they can afford to purchase healthy, fresh, locally-grown foods. This program is already helping organizations such as the Living Pono Project and the Pacific Birth Collectives to solve food and nutritional insecurity. Kūpuna, young children, families, expecting [sic] mothers, ALICE households, our marginalized communities who are...who are this program that helps them, exactly the people who need to deserve [sic] healthy and freshly local produce. The Department reported receiving more than \$3 million in requests last year, showing that there is need and demand for these funds, and we have talked to the Department, and they are in support of this increase. This program allows organizations to use funds to enter into purchasing contracts. This helps farms and organizations plan for future harvest, and gives farms security on their investments while opening up new markets. It's good for the farmer, it's good for organizations, and it's good for our people. So, it's a win, win, win. Thank you. Chair...Members, I ask for your full support of my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more dis...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .(inaudible). . . cuts?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Not yet.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: We're voting on this one and then we're voting on...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What? No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wait. What?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Don't do it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry, was that a yes or a no?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, because you're going to have to...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Don't ask hard questions.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Say your cuts, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's my motion, Members --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Don't do it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- and there are cuts on the...on the matrix for your reference.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good. There we go, perfect. I would like to speak to the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. Please see the rubric if you need to.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I speak in strong support of this proposal, Member Johnson's proposal. We heard, when we went to Lānaʻi at the district hearing, how successful this program was in its first pilot year. This is one of the action items, one of the priority recommendations in the Food and Nutrition Security Plan, and so I like to follow the plans that we develop with the community. And it's kind of like DA BUX. On Molokai, we have DA BUX Program that kind of

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

April 20, 2026

service...serves as a similar program as what Member Johnson's funding. So, full support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And so, we have your offsets, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That is correct, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That are listed. So, go for it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, this...the total offsets will total to \$1 million, so we have...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is he just mentioning them? Because we're not in those departments yet.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- do...do you want us...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that's going to be confusing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Do you want us to just glance at page 1 and 2 of the matrix so we're all aware of his proposal?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It is there for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Members can certainly --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- look at that, and I'm ready for the vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The class...the questions.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good job.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, in your offsets...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can all read it quietly to ourselves.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Let's take a moment of silence.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, let's say if you have the women's tournament...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're...we're...we're...I thought we were sticking to one department at a time so that we can like leave before midnight. I have children at home. Member U'u-Hodgins and Member Paltin also have children at home. You said --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you don't have children at home, so it's not your problem.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We do. Member Batangan also has very --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hey.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- young children at home.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, I was joking. I...I was just saying that I would stay here longer than all of you because I don't have children at home. So, anyway...okay. So, any other comments on that?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shane had his hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci, do you have your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: He says no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don't? Okay. All right. Members, so this was a motion by Member Johnson, second by Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: By Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Who was second?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Both of us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- was second.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Increase Farm to Family Grant by \$1 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members. Way to go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are done with that. Okay. So, we are actually then on Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I move to add to the condition that grantees will follow the Food and Nutrition Security Plan in the condition, and it'll be finalized later...by Friday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is there...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second? Okay. Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and second by Chair Lee. Any discussion? I think we heard about this, yeah? All in favor, raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It looks like --

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- it looks nine "ayes." Congratulations.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Modify condition language to the Agricultural Micro Grants Program - grantees to follow the Food and Nutrition Security Plan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we're going to mine, which is...this is new, and Department of Agriculture, Ag Program, Grants and Disbursements for Agriculture Promotion, and insert new line for 500,000 under Grants and Disbursements for Agriculture Promotion to read XI...Roman numeral XI, Lokahi Pacific for the Animal Feed Crop Pilot Program, and...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, this is my motion, and Member Cook second. Any questions, Members? So, this was requested from my community as we've gone through the challenges of feeding crops, and...and the livestock community were saying that they were not able to have enough for their livestock, so this is a program...a pilot program so that they can grow their own. And Lokahi Pacific has agreed to undertake this. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just inquiring if there's like a white paper on this, or if there will be by the time we pass the budget.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we can create one. I don't have a white paper, but I will. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But there will be?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It was when we talked to Lokahi Pacific who has been in contact with farmers, putting up the fencing and whatever, and pretty...pretty close contact with farmers and livestock, which was very supportive of this for needs of the community.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was asking because the departments requested it so they can better...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Understand how to administer it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, what you said.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I want to speak to the motion. It not only help...growing feed for the livestock not only helps the ranchers, but it also helps our ag industry because it gives them another cash crop that they can grow, and it makes for a more circular economy for our agriculture.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Okay. Next one is...so we voted yes, it passed. Thank you very much. And we will come up with a white paper. Councilmember Batangan?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We didn't vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we didn't vote. I thought we did.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We didn't...we didn't vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye." Or is this...is this roll call?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wait, I had a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. For this program that you're proposing, is it going to be Countywide or just Upcountry?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The farm...the farms that requested it...or my community requested it, so I was planning on having it like kind of Upcountry, you know, for my Upcountry farmers. Do you have a thought?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It says --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But it doesn't say that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Countywide on the matrix on page 3.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, it's Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I only ask because you said that --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- your district asked for it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: My...my district did.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But it says Countywide. So, it'll be Countywide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, may I?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Having it Countywide might work for everybody because the livestock Upcountry needs the feed and some of the other areas may be more optimum to actually grow it. So, I think having it Countywide won't subtract from the Upcountry's request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right. Members, any more?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have another question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Because this is a new program and it says Countywide number 1, just like we did with the microgrants, the ag microgrants,

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

April 20, 2026

you'll probably have to communicate to the Department how to disburse the funding because 500,000 is only going to go so far. For example, with the ag microgrants, we...we capped it at 25,000 per applicant. So, like it'll def...like...like Member Paltin asked for a white paper, like you'll have to like develop the program itself. Otherwise, it's not going to...you know, we...we need to know how it's going to work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Hear ya. Okay. Members, anything else? All in favor, raise your hand...is this a roll call?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Nine "ayes." The motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Insert new line item for \$500,000 to Lokahi Pacific for the Animal Feed Crop Pilot Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Members. Next we have...on the matrix...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kauanoë.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I move to add a new grant line item for the Rusty MauiCat Collective to support their trap, neuter, and release program. This would be under the Department of Ag, A, Agriculture Program, Subsection 4, Grants and Disbursements for Animal Management.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank...thank you, Chair. So, I'm proposing to add \$25,000. The group spoke at our public hearing here in the Chambers last week. They do trap, neuter, and release. It's a humane way to do animal control here on the island. I will say, feral cats and chickens is one of the things my office hears about most, to go along with unpaved roads and cars that are parked illegally on the side of the road. So, I...I guess I would just really ask the Members to support this...this motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess same question. Do you have a white paper?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I do not have a white paper on this. And to...I can't tell you right now if it's something that is already being administered or if it would be a new program that would be started. I just...I'd have to get back to you on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you have contact information for the Rusty people, or cat people?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: In my office, yes. So, I guess if you want...if you want a white paper, we can reach out and ask that they put something together for the Members' consideration. I just don't have that with me now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, yeah. Same like Chair Sugimura, before we finalize the budget, that's what the departments have asked for. So, just...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's what.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh. Thank you, Member Paltin. Yeah, we'll follow up with them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. All right. Any other discussion? If not, let's...raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook...looks like we have nine "ayes." Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah? Okay. Nine "ayes," motion carries. Yay.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Add a new line item for Rusty MauiCat Collective in the amount of \$25,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, you're next.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Move to approve a new...a grant to Maui Humane Society for a pet retention program in the amount of \$250,000. And I will provide a white paper later.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. And you...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I need a second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by Member Cook. Chair Lee made the motion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, everybody knows, especially with the fires, but in general, there are way too many pets that have been not cared for properly. And the Humane Society has a tremendous problem with all of these pets being dropped off there, and...and they have a hard time finding homes for...for the new pets. And I have reached my limit at my house so I...I ask your support, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I know, you have such a soft...softie for animals. Anybody else? All right. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Looks like we have nine "ayes," motion carries.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Insert new line item for the Maui Humane Society for a Pet Retention Program in the amount of \$250,000.**

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It looks like, according to my...I'm...we're at the end of the Department of Ag, is that correct?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I have something to bring up at the end, so I'll wait until we get there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, we're still going through the rest of it. We're go...this is the Members' Priorities...oh, okay. You're fine. All right. So...so, did anybody have any proposed amendments now for the Operating Budget, which is on page 2 to 5 of Bill 55?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now it's your turn.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought we were doing all the priorities first. I had two Revolving Fund priorities.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you have more?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And Chair, I also have a proposed cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Go ahead...Member Paltin first, and then Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Shucks, I couldn't find what page it's on. But my first Revolving Fund priority, I move to give them an additional 20,000 for their vehicle. I think 60,000 was originally allocated, and they said their vehicle would cost 80,000. So...page which?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: 30.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thanks. Page 30 is where it is. And that's my proposal. No white paper because --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Their operational.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- it's for their...it's what they asked for.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, this is for the Humane Society, and it's a \$20,000 add. Is that right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? No white paper because this is what they asked in theirs. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, nine...nine "ayes," motion carries.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Increase condition amount by \$20,000 to the Maui Humane Society to purchase a new Humane Enforcement Vehicle.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a second Revolving Fund proposal. I move to add a new condition to read as follows, up to 40,000 for spay/neuter services.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is one of their other adds that I think Nikki Russell detailed in her email to us, that they wanted the County to try and support a third of their spay and neuter costs, and so that we don’t have the problem that Chair Lee is referring to, that we have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Control.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- support pet population control and community animal health by giving them the funding for their spay and neuter program that they asked for in Interim Executive Director Nikki Russell’s letter to us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. No other discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: You need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I’m sorry. So this was...motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine “ayes.”

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U’u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Add a new condition of up to \$40,000 for Maui Humane Society’s spay/neuter services.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I do have a cut to the Department of Agriculture program. I move to cut Category A by \$83,723. And this --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 80...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- decreases the months funded for Fiscal Year ’26 and ’27 positions that have not yet been created. And if you want to see how many months it decreases it by, it’s here on this redacted sheet that was distributed. Of course, this is just a justification and recommendation. They can move the money around however they choose.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you say the number again?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The decrease number?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is \$83,723.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: \$83,723. Okay. All right. Members, any discussion? Seeing none. Oh, we have a second?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Huh? \$83,723.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Member Paltin, and second by Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...if you guys do want to hear my suggestion for them is, there's two positions that have not yet been created from Fiscal Year '26 expansion, and my proposal is to cut two months' funding. And then I think they said eight months' funding for Fiscal Year '27 expansion positions. And given they have two positions from Fiscal Year '26 that still haven't been created, I decreased the months funded from eight to four. But like I said, if they have vacancies or other things, they can be flexible. That's just my justification/recommendation, they can do whatever they want.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. And all in favor, Members, raise your hand.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Roll call, Chair. I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, roll call? Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice...Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's eight "ayes" and one "no." Motion passes.

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **Councilmember Johnson.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Reduce Department of Agriculture's Category A by \$83,723.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Batangan. You have...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes. Thank you, Chair. I move to reduce the...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh. I'm sorry, Chair. Is that a cut?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: May I...may I interrupt real quick?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, I do have language changes...I want to make a language change, and I don't know if I should do it before we start cutting...you know, about the food stimulus program? So, when is appropriate to do that, a language change?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, are...are you...it's not an add, it's not one of your --

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- priorities?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's just change...amending the language to...to help them administer the food...Lānaʻi-Grown Food Stimulus program better. And I didn't know where to put that right nows [sic], but we're into cuts, I'd rather do it before we do cuts. I don't, it just felt right, but I'm kind of wanting to let you guys know I want to do this. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're...you're adding to it?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm not adding any funds, I'm just amending the language so that they can administer the program better.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Can we do that after we do all this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because actually, it's not going to change then. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's not going to change, but I just figured...I don't know where to put it, I figured I'd do it before the --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- before the cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let's...let's do the...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But if you're doing the cuts, that's fine, but I just don't want anybody to forget it. I'm going to try to lobby for that as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We can't forget about you, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. And then I also have something about Georgia Pinsky, guys, and I'm going to ask the department if they remembered to put that in, remember the...they came before us about the Maui Farmer Support Network, if that was put in. So, again, I know we're cutting, but if...if we hear from the department that, you know, Maui Farmer Support Network got put in...because remember, they said on the floor it was a mistake that they weren't put in. So, maybe we could ask Director Milner. I'm sorry, I'm just...I don't mean to jump the gun on anybody, but we are getting into cuts, and it might be relevant.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Some...so, you should have put that in as a priority?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, no.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that what you're saying?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Remember, the Administration said they were meaning to put it in, they just forgot. And I'd like to hear Director Milner, if she had put it in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, wait. This...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: A departmental request.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's fix...let's...let's hear Member Batangan first.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Actually, Chair, the Budget Director just popped on board. So, I'm happy to defer --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- I will...I...I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- actually like to let Member Johnson go first.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Go ahead. Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yes, that's listed in the department request list that I've put together. I've reached out to the BFED Staff to ask how...where...if the Chair would like that transmitted to the Committee?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. So...

MS. MILNER: Okay. So, no. And so, no, that will not be added, they will need to apply through the competitive process unless...it sounds like the process is it needs to be a Councilmember priority rather than a department request. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hmm, yeah. Okay. Got it?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, they're not getting their money?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: None of you put it in as a priority, and it would have gotten in --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- as a priority that way.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ms. Milner was...when I asked her, she said she would make it be the departmental request, and that's why they didn't put it in as a priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you were going to?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was going to, but then she said that she was going to do the Farm Bureau and the Maui Farmer Support Network as a departmental priority because of their miscommunication.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, that's why I didn't put it as a line.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's...same as myself.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. And that's why --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I put in Farm Bureau.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's hand is up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I'd like to...I would like for us to be able to vote on this to make it a process so that it's not just you alone making that decision on the process, Chair. Because it...it sounds like there was some communication about expecting departmental requests to be considered as departmental requests, as they had been in the past. And so, I move that we amend our budget process...our review process to include departmental requests as departmental requests for us to be able to vote on and not as...not considered a Councilmember priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez and seconded by Member Johnson. So you're basically saying to change our process so that if the departments or Administration comes up and says, that was what they were going to do and they forgot to do, then it can be added, even if it doesn't come from you. Is that what you're saying?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not exactly. In the past...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . what I'm saying.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In the past, we've done...like --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you know, when COVID or the fire, we've...and the budget was being created, we needed to change things. In this case, I would say the gas prices and...and whatnot would be the changes if they're calculating them. It's all the things that happen from the time they put their budget together until we're considering it, things have changed, and we want to be as accurate as possible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, they submit their budget back in like November, December time. And so, if anything happened, like this example, I would like for us to be able to consider and vote on those.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And it's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- ready to vote?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and it's not a change to the process because I didn't know that this wasn't going to be part of the process.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And the process belongs to all of us, and not just you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right, Members. So, it's up to all of you. We can vote, right? So, at this time then, all in favor...or why don't we do a roll call vote?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: We're voting on whether . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We're voting on what?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Restate the motion.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can...can we please reiterate? So, Chair, the...the motion before us is whether we will have the department's requests be before us to vote on them. They were not part of a Councilmember priority. So, we're allowing the departments to submit things they may have missed or things that may have changed from the time they submitted their budget to...to now, April. And like Member Paltin said, a lot has changed...so, in order to take them up.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Would they be...the departments be submitting it to the Chair to put on, or a Councilmember to propose?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The Budget Director has put together a list of requests from the departments.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And that'll be submitted to the BFED Committee for all of us?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I will tell you that in the past, yes, that has happened where the Administration would come in after the Members have, you know, done...gone through the budget and said oh, by the way, you forgot this, right? And so, in this case, I had asked for the Administration to complete their process, to communicate with us, through all the meetings that we've had, tell us what was forgotten or whatever so we're not at this point of decision making and saying oh, by the way, we forgot this, and we forgot that. Because then it...it was not the process that we had set up. So...vote. Let's vote. Roll call.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are there any other questions before we vote so that it's clear?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I don't see any. All right, Members. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MONIZ: Excused?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What happened?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that’s six “ayes,” three “noes.” Motion passes.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: AYES: Vice-Chair Batangan and Councilmembers Johnson, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers Cook and Lee.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Allow departmental requests to be voted on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Councilmember Sinenci has his hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Sinenci. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Member Johnson. I...real quick, if...Chair, as we're going through the reductions, will the...and should we have some discrepancy with the departments, will they have a opportunity to speak to them, or would they be going through the Budget Director?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or we haven't called...we haven't called...yeah, they've come to us and provided testimony, but we haven't called the departments to come before us, it's only you and Ms. Milner, and I'm sure she has the departments with her. I think I've seen them in the past, but not visible to us. So, their voices are being heard through her, as well as through public testimony, like in the past. Yeah. Okay. Thank you. All right. So, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I do have a language change. Do you want me to do that now or later?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Since you have the floor.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, no.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. So, this one...this is the language change in Department of Ag on...under the Lānaʻi-Grown Food Stimulus Program, and that's page 3 in the budget ordinance...in the budget ordinance. And I'm going to amend the condition to read, and I'll read it into the record, funds must be used for a grant to implement a food voucher program for Lānaʻi residents. Vouchers must be used for the purchase of locally grown or sourced fresh produce and fruit, edible algae, poi, meat, fish, eggs, and honey with the County Lānaʻi Farmers Markets vendors. Vouchers may be issued with preference given to kūpuna, children, or members of a household with kūpuna or children. That's the language. And I can explain a little bit more if I get a second.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Wait, sorry. Can you say that again for me one more time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That is page 3 of the budget ordinance. And...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eight (*phonetic*).

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Did you...did you want me to read it again, you said?

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Just the last part.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Vouchers may be issued with preference given to kūpuna, children, or members of a household with kūpuna or children. The updated proviso will allow for flexibility in how the vouchers are distributed, removing the requirement for the vouchers to be distributed the day of...that's important. Additionally, this language will allow Lānaʻi Farmers Market vendors to accept the vouchers at any location where they sell, hopefully expanding the reach of the program. We have removed the age limitation for the children, opening up to preference to include any child under 18. So, it's no...it's budget neutral, it's just helping them administer the program better. Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we heard that from the community.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for doing that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And we...I do see Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez hand's up.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And you got that, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I can give it to you in writing if you like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can...you can...sent it in? Okay. Okay, good.
Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Johnson, how are you
defining senior citizen, what age? Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh. I've...it has been 55 and older. I like that, but I...I don't
know. I'd have to...have to get back and ask them.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It might...it might be good to like write that in,
like 55 or older.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I could do a friendly amendment --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- with...yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I think that...that would be clearer for
everyone so that it's not left out to anyone --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to deny that they're kūpuna. That's
...*(laughing)*...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Would kūpuna 55 and older...is that the language?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Also, kūpuna...kūpuna doesn't mean senior
citizen, like a older person. Makule means older person, kūpuna is actually a...a
status.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hmm...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Preference given to...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, like 50-plus years or older.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 55 years or older is...is the friendly amendment, Members.
Is that okay? That's...I support that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Did you say...I was trying to write this down, but did you say you're going to change when they can receive their voucher? Like they can...because they...remember, that there was an issue with the six months?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. So they can...they'll get it when they go in the MEO register file, and then they'll get it. But it used to be like you had to spend it within a certain amount of days?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: This is going to be removing the requirement of vouchers to be distributed day of, okay? So, it doesn't say that, you know, you get...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, they don't have to spend it in a certain amount of days.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Are you changing when the farmers can capitalize on their vouchers? Because we also heard that it...they only could do it every six months, and --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- it was kind of difficult to carry that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I did not change the language to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But if you'd like...then we might take a little...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Well, I don't...I'm not familiar with this program. You are.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It...it might take a little bit of...I...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Change?

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't think for this language and this purpose I'm...we're ready to amend it there, but...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: You're just changing the spending limit...spending time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. It's really just to make it easier for the administration from MEO, right?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sounds good. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: One person on Lānaʻi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, we're good.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: This is an MEO-administered grant, so I will be recusing myself from this vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's fair. Okay. So, Members, we're ready to vote. Any more discussion? Member...all in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan is recused, I guess, is the word. And then...so, we have...Chair Lee is...is excused. What is that...seven, eight, nine...seven. Seven votes, motion...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Member Sinenci...I don't see Member Sinenci at his video.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah. He walked away. So six "ayes," and Member Sinenci there, so seven "ayes" --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There he is. There he is. . . .*(laughing)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- seven "ayes," Chair Lee and...and Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **Vice-Chair Batangan.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Lee.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Modify condition language for the Lāna‘i-Grown Food Stimulus Program.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion carries. Okay. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I...I move to decrease the A Category by \$52,656.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. 52,000...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: 52,656.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 656. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And if I get a second, I can speak more.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan, and second by Member Cook.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. So, I...this, admittedly, is slightly more than my across-the-board cut proposal. It doesn't...I had threw that out, it doesn't seem to be sticking with the Members, and it really makes it difficult for me to go department by department like this, so I'm going to start taking a more tailored approach. This particular one is the salary for the secretary to the boards and commission. It's a small department, I don't understand why they would need a second secretary just to administer two boards. You know, when I was at the MPO we had two boards, and our staff was two people total when I first got there. We were able to manage, and I don't think that this is...this is necessary.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Any more discussion? Member Cook.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. If I could speak to that. I had it on mine as well. The committee last met on 03/31/25, and it's...yeah. So, I...I concur. I think that this isn't something that's going to harm the department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can I hear from Ms. Milner?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there you are. Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. You know, in light of the fact that the body has already cut \$83,723 from this department's A Account, an additional 52,000 on a department of this size feels pretty significant. So, I'd just really like the body to take that into consideration while considering their votes. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. So, the cuts that we've already done were to reduce the number of months for positions that are not yet created. This particular position is one that was created under a different title, but the department's proposing to reallocate the position. So, it doesn't sound like it'd be even ready to fill at this point. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Thank you. All right. All ready to vote? Okay. All in favor of this, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? I...I wanted to hear from Budget Director. I know she already spoke to the significant decrease to the overall Account A, but specifically to the position, if she could speak to the consequence of doing that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Director Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. I believe in maybe AG-3, which the body received today, the department has outlined the fact that the Kula Ag Park Committee has not been able to meet since July of 2025 due to staffing issues. So, that's one of the primary reasons for this proposal, to try and get that up and running again to be a more active body. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. I'm...I'm supportive of, you know, of course, being fiscally responsible, but I also need our County to be

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

April 20, 2026

able to operate. And so, if this is going to prevent them from being able to operate, then I wouldn't be supportive of it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Anybody else have any comments before we vote?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Chair, you're on the Kula Ag Committee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You could be able to speak to not being able to meet --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- because of staffing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I don't...I don't know if it's because of staffing because I think they can meet. They have kind of fumbled with technology and just trying to coordinate. I don't see that they need a secretary. So, I stand by Member Batangan's rationale for this, and that there's a lot of work to do for this Kula Ag Park, and we can. So, anybody else, Members? Okay, I'm going to take the vote. This is going to be...sounds like --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- a roll call vote, yeah? Okay. So, Member Batangan wants to cut 52,650 from...56...56...okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee is excused. Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's six "ayes," two "noes," one excused. Motion passes.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
 Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Paltin, and
 U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: Councilmembers Rawlins-Fernandez and Sinenci.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Lee.

MOTION CARRIED.

**ACTION: Reduce Category A by \$52,656 for the Boards and
 Commission's secretary.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Member Batangan, are you done? Yeah? Okay.
So...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. For Department of Agriculture, I propose to delete 134,576 plus fringe. The explanation is...is to delete funding for expansion positions requested in FY 2027 so the department can work with DPS and figure out what types of positions are needed to prevent the department from requesting a position in one fiscal year, and reallocating the next...and the position in the next. In FY 2025, the department requested an abor...abronist [sic] position, which has never been created

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

April 20, 2026

and is now transferring to the Parks Department. In FY '26, the department requested a Value Chain Coordinator, which has not been created to date, and the Park Project Coordinator that is now being relocated to the Department of Personnel off...Officer position. I just want to tell my colleagues, I'm very supportive of the Ag Department, and it's just that I see that this particular funding can be deleted without harming the department, and we can continue to support them. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook makes the motion...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, point of information. We already decreased those Fiscal Year '27 expansion positions four months, so there's only four months left to delete. So, if you're deleting 100 percent of the expansion position funding, you might need to cut that in half because I already cut it in half.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for that clarity. I'll modify my proposal if I can get a second, and I need to do the math.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I...I'll give the second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook, and Member Batangan second. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Since he's doing math, can I...I speak as the second --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- to give him some time? So, I guess I'll just start by thanking Member Paltin. You know, the way we took this up, we cut once by position ID numbers and then Member Cook brought it up by position titles. So, I was also trying to figure out whether or not we were double-cutting these. So, thank you, Member Paltin. I don't...I'm...I'm...would still like to hear the full repercussions of this proposal since it is an additional cut on top of what we've already done. So, hopefully I've talked long enough to give Member Cook some time --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- to do some math, and we can hear what --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Teamwork.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- the total is.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I thank my colleague. I would reduce my reduction. I propose to reduce it by \$67,288, and it is for the expansion position request in FY '27 so the department can work with DPS. We know how challenging it is with DPS.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and let's address the fringe when we get to Countywide.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Plus the fringe, right. I didn't calculate the fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because we're going to address it when we get to Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What would you propose?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Addressing it when we get to Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you. So, we can vote on this?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, can I make sure I understand?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, the proposal...because you...you took a dollar amount. So, in terms of like what is left for funding, that's how many months for the positions that you're describing. You're...you're fully decreasing the...the salaries for these positions?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: For those two expansion positions that are still...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Three Fiscal Year '27 expansion positions, right?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I see them. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And they're...it's not for the department not to be able to expand, it's the challenge that we have with DPS funding it, and then the department not being able to pull the trigger and actually to get people at work.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, in total...so what we've done to the department is we cut the salary but not the E/P for that Secretary III. We've decreased two positions from ten months' funding to eight months' funding. And then we're proposing to zero out the salaries for the remaining three...that's the last three expansion positions for FY '27. Is that correct?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Fiscal Year '26 positions, they proposed having 12 months' funding. I decreased it two months to ten months' funding because...so we're close to May, so that gives them May, June, July, August...that gives them four months to firm up the creation of those positions.

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I see. So, when I read the chart that you had created, months funded isn't what was in the...the department, it was...or from the Mayor's proposed budget, it's remaining after the cuts that you're proposing, right? Because if...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's...it's cut from the Mayor's proposal. So, like --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the Fiscal Year '26 expansion positions, the Mayor's proposal recommended 12 months' funding. So, I cut two --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Two.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- months from the Mayor's proposal so it's funded ten months.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So...so, that column, months funded, ten is after your proposed cuts are adopted.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: From the Mayor's...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because like if you look down below, I cut four months' funding because the Mayor's proposal was eight months' funding, and so...you get it.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mm-hmm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Member Rawlins-Fernandez . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez...oh, Member...Director is --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- popped up. Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I...I was supportive of reducing it by four months, I'm not supportive of completely eliminating it. And then I...I'll hand it to Budget Director since you were recognizing her.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait. You can finish off, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, but that was what I was going to say.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I just wanted to add, I did hear from Director and Deputy Director of Agriculture. The Secretary of Boards and Commissions was filled today, so I just wanted to give you that information. And the Value Chain has been approved by DPS, and they anticipate filling that by the end of the fiscal year. So, I just wanted you to have that information before you voted on any additional cuts. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. Budget Director, was that the position that the Committee just cut that was filled?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. It's my understanding that the intent of the Committee was to cut funding for that position. It was filled...the Committee didn't cut the E/P, so, you know, the department does have flexibility, but Ag is one of our departments that has done a pretty decent job with their vacancies, so I'd just really like the body to consider that before voting on any further cuts to their A budget as they are one of our smaller departments. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting. Oh, congratulations.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...yes, congratulations to Department of Ag. But Budget Director, where it's at now, is there enough funding for the newly-filled position and the currently-filled positions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because the position's still there...oh, there...Chair Lee is there. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. And the person is there, so we have to pay the person.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I'll have to do the math now that I have this information on the additional-filled positions, but I would definitely be very concerned about an additional \$68,000 cut at this point. And, you know, I'll talk to the Department of Ag and they may come testify tomorrow to ask the body to reconsider that \$52,000 cut as well, as there is a person in the position that was discussed. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

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

April 20, 2026

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we are actually in Member Cook's motion? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm just looking at AG-1 response, and the position ID is P-00674. That's not correct then if the position has been created. Is that correct, Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. There should be an updated position number now that the position has been created. I can get that for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because that's what I'm working on when I see a vacancy is that there's no real position ID. So, that's my interpretation. As soon as a position gets created, they should put it in there so that we're aware that the position has been created. That's what I'm going off of. If there's not an accurate position ID, my...my interpretation is the position has not yet been created.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes. We work very closely with DPS to do our best to update these numbers. It's possible that position was created after the budget was finalized, which is why the position number hadn't been updated, but we can definitely get that for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I'm going...I'm not going off of that, I'm going off of the transmittal dated April 9th, page 2. So, that's what I was going off of.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah, they may have been using what was listed in the budget details instead. So, I'll get confirmation for you on that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So just request in the future if they're going to respond like that, they can put what it was listed as and what the updated position ID is so that we're aware that the position actually has been created.

MS. MILNER: Thank you. I'll advise the departments of that in the future.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, where are we? We are...we have already voted on Member Batangan, which passed.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes. I...if I'm understanding correctly, we are on Member Cook's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook's...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- proposed --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Cook's cut is...sorry...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What page are we on now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Cook...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Department of Ag, Member Cook proposed reducing Account A.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Chairs [sic]. So, we had previously cut the funding for three expansion...for FY '27 expansion positions by half. Member Cook is proposing to completely cut the funding for them this year. So, it would...it went from eight to four, now the proposal before us to go from four to zero.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And given all the recent discussion, I'm going to withdraw my motion so we can move on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. All right. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to reconsider the vote on the warm body position that we just cut.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. To?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we've got to vote on the reconsideration, which would take us back to before we took the vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any explanation on that?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: On the . . .(inaudible). . . position.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(inaudible). . . Any...okay. We're going to vote for reconsideration of Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor, say “aye.” Let’s hear the...

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Chair Lee joins us too.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah...Chair Lee? Can you hear? Okay. So now we have all of us here. Okay. Nine “ayes.” Motion is reconsidered.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U’u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Motion reconsidered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to not cut the position that has a warm body.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, point of order.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah, I don’t know how it works.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: After the re...after the reconsideration, we’re at the motion still. Either Member Batangan could withdraw the motion...the main motion to not fund the position that has been filled, or we can, you know, just vote on that motion to remove that funding for that secretarial position, which I will be voting against --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- again.

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'm happy to withdraw.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're happy to withdraw? Okay. So you're withdrawing yours.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to do that. Okay. All right. So, Members, I have a...anybody else? I want to entertain a motion to reduce Category B, 918223B\6112, Contractual Services, by 200,000, page 1 to 6 of Budget Details...1-6 of Budget Details. See AG-2, page 21 and 22, Category B. The funding request is for a outsourcing grant writing services. Since the department has successfully filled a position within the department, the funding is no longer needed. That is my rationale.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, shoot. I...I have that as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You do have that as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let me try look...shoot.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Since we're waiting, Chair...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...in reflection on this, I think we should change the name Agriculture so that they're not always start first in our budget cuts timing. So, let's maybe come up with a different name so it's not always first on the chopping block.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Like starts with a Z.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Farm...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Zagriculture (*phonetic*).

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Zagri...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a question.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, are you...are you done looking? I'll let Member Rawlins-Fernandez speak.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, let her. Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One, I...I wanted to...how much were you cutting it by, the total?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 200,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 200,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And what transmittal --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, look at AG-2.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- was their response under?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: AG-2.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: AG-2.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: AG-2, page 21 and 22, Category B.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I decreased it on page 16. Sorry, I forgot about it. Is that 918223B-6112?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, yeah. I...I decreased mine by 40 grand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, mine's 200,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The full amount.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, basically they have a grant writer, right? They have a really good grant writer, by the way.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, basically, this...this request for outsourcing grant writing services, where the department [sic] has successfully been filled, and very successfully, I...I must agree.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can I hear why Member Paltin only reduced it by 40,000 instead of all 200,000? Member Paltin?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin's talking to Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I decreased it by 40 grand because somewhere in their answer, they put offsetting the cost for households feral chicken trapping, and I had offset this for the Maui Farm people because I heard that they lay eggs. And so, I thought perhaps they could catch the chickens and eat the eggs, and then it would be no harm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's on page 16 of your matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Chair Lee might like that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, yours is...it would be 160,000 versus 2.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It was...it was taking 40,000 for...from their chicken trapping thing. They said they didn't have a concrete idea in giving that 40,000 to the Maui Farm. And, you know, maybe the Maui Farm residents would catch the chickens and eat the eggs, or...you know, chicken papaya.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They have a nice operation. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Chair, would you lower yours to 160? You had 200.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 160...okay. So, I'll lower mine to 160.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Instead of 2. Okay. Members...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes...Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If...if you're going forward with this, I'm going to ask for a roll call vote. You know, sometimes I think...there's a lot of funding out there that this position could go and...or this contract could go and get those funds. So, sometimes grant writers pay themselves in spades, you know, and grants...the people who are contracting out to get those grants come...can come back and pay...pay itself.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, that's...that's what I just want to add.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're roll call. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I, too, feel the same way. These are smaller departments that are still kind of getting up...up and coming, so...so some of these grant funds is to increase their...well, reporting, they need to do reporting for the grants, those types of things, but grants will greatly bring in more funding to the department, increase...increase their operation. So, I'll be voting no, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion? Okay. So, this is now Category B, Contractual Services will be 160,000.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm going to reduce it by 40.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BATANGAN: Okay, wait.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Agree. Okay. Vote...we're going to vote, right?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Roll call?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Roll call? Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll...Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote.
Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm so sorry. Are we...I just want to clarify, we're cutting 160,000, not leaving 160,000?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're cutting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 160,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're cutting 160...yeah. Leaving 40. That's what you asked for, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, I mean, the whole pot is 412,000.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct. And we're taking 160, and you were going to take 40. We were going to take 200.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If we take 160, I'm not going to propose my 40. But I'll vote yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, he wasn't sure if he had to recuse himself or not.

MS. MONIZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, really?

MS. MONIZ: Excused.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, excused. So, I vote...

MS. MONIZ: Recused.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I vote yes.

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

April 20, 2026

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's five "ayes," three "noes," and one excused [sic]. Motion passes.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Paltin, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: Councilmembers Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.

ABSTAIN: Vice-Chair Batangan.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Reduce Category B by \$160,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, Members. All right. So, for this department then, CIP...there's no proposed CIPs for the Department of Agriculture. Appendix A, grant 1...I'm sorry. Appendix A, Part I, Grants, there are no proposed grants for the Department of Agriculture. Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues. As a reminder, the following funds are under this department. Animal Management Revolving Fund, Chapter 3.84, Maui County Code, page 51. Maui County Agriculture Parks Revolving Fund, Chapter 3.41, Maui County Code, page 51. Molokai Farming Cost Reimbursement Program, page 55. And there are no other proposed amendments to the Special Purpose Revenues for the Department of Agriculture. Are there any amendments to that? None. Rates and fees. So, rates and fees in Ramseyer version, pages 3 to 5, there are no proposed rate changes from the Administration. Do you have any proposed Adminis...amendments...amendments to the rates and fees for the Department of Agriculture? Seeing none. All right. I wanted to also ask the Budget Director this question. Director Milner? Thank you. Should the reference to the Animal Control Board be replaced with the Dangerous Dog Adjudication and Appeals Board?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Oh, okay. I was going to ask . . .(inaudible). . .

MS. MILNER: Has that ordinance passed, or was it changed to...

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I think it takes effect July 1st.

MS. MILNER: Okay. Then, yes. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...so moved, Member Paltin. We're going to correct this...and second by...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by Member U'u-Hodgins. So the motion is Animal Control [*sic*] be replaced with Dangerous Dog Adjudication and Appeals Board. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Amend reference of the Animal Control Board to Dangerous Dog Adjudication and Appeals Board.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for doing that. Okay. I guess this was...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank Mr. Hanano for his diligent efforts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . He's smiling. Okay. Write that in your Committee report. Okay. So, I think we are done with Department of Ag, Members. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can we take a quick recess? . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Okay. It's 5:09. You guys want to come back at 5...what, 15?

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. 5:15. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 5:09 p.m.
RECONVENE: 5:17 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee, it’s now 5:17. And we are...we have completed, yay, Department of Ag. And we’re going to move on. So, next, we have Corporation Counsel, East Maui Water Authority...and we just got responses from Emergency Management, so I think we’ll save that for tomorrow because you can all then look at the responses. So, Corporation Counsel, nobody had any priorities for Corporation Counsel. Operating budget, which is Budget Bill, Legal Services Program, page 5, are there...Members, are...are there any amendments to Category A, Salaries, for the Department of Corporation Counsel or Category B? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did...okay. I’ll make the motion first and then we can discuss it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to decrease Category A appropriation by \$24,884.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. 24,000...say again?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: \$884.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. For Corp. Counsel. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, for discussion, this is a Safety Specialist III position. It’s not in active recruitment, and they plan to reallocate it to a Safety Specialist II position because, I guess, you know, like there might not be enough candidates at that higher level. So, I cut four months to give them the time to reallocate it so that they can try and recruit somebody to fill it.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that’s my discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But, of course, you know, they can do whatever they want. That’s my suggestion/justification.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion? Seeing none. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, this is eight "ayes"...eight "ayes"...nine "ayes," okay. Member...everybody's here. Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Reduce Category A by \$24,884 in Corporation Counsel.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else? That's for A. Any...any...Member Batangan, do you have anything in yours? None? Okay. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No? Okay. So, anything for Category B? No? All right. Capital Improvements, there are no proposed CIPs for the Department of Corporation Counsel. Oops. There is no grant, Special Purpose Revenue, or rates and fees for the...for this department. Does anybody...anybody else have anything for Department of Corporation Counsel? Looks like we are done. Okay. Okay. Next, East Maui Water Authority. Member Priorities. I think Member Sinenci has a priority.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. My priority was to...for the East Maui Water Authority, increase Category A, Salaries, by \$39,882, and update the condition from 10.5 to 11.5 equivalent personnel to add a Planner V at . . .*(inaudible)*. . . for six months.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And if I get a second, I'll explain.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I need a second. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Please proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Thank you. Members, a Planner V would help the County save in consulting fees to do permitting work for watershed work, which they're starting to do. The permits to enter into the streams are reviewed by Army Corps of Engineers, DLNR, and the Department of Health, so the Planner V will assist with monitoring and reporting, which is also required for the grant funding reports. And I ask for the Members' support. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other discussion? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just a question. Does it need to be that high of a Planner? A lot of the other departments have vacancies of Planner Vs, and it seems a little hard to recruit...like sometimes they'll start with a Planner III and work their way up. But I heard the description of work you need done. Is that only something only a Planner V can do?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I...I know it's specialized permitting, but maybe...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll defer to Miss...Director Milner.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Ms. Mil...yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Councilmembers. You guys keep trying to make me a Member. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yes. I have spoken with Director Young about this, and they're actually looking at a Planner V or a Planner VI due to the complex nature of the work. And she has been in conversation with people who are qualified for this position and interested in applying. So, hopefully she will not have the same Planner issues as some of our other departments have had when it comes to filling the positions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Answers your question? Any other discussion? If not, let's vote. All in favor? Yes.

MS. SZABO: Thank you, Chair. We just have...Staff would like to clarify if we should include fringe benefits, or if the Committee would like to take that up separately after...when you get to Countywide --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . fringes.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: When we get to Countywide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, when we get to Countywide. Thank you for asking that. Any other questions? No? Okay. All right, Members. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Motion carries. That's seven...nine "ayes."

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Increase Category A by \$39,882 and update condition from 10.5 to 11.5 E/P in East Maui Water Authority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Chair Lee. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I meant to ask Member Sinenci, why wasn't that position included in the Mayor's budget?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And this was from our last stakeholder's meeting, so it...it came from the board. But I can...I can refer to Budget Director Milner.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. Yes, just to add on to what Councilmember Sinenci was saying, yeah, they weren't aware at the time the budget was created of how expensive the consultant fees for permitting were going to be. So, it was determined that this was the more fiscally-responsible route. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- just to...just to add, Chair Lee, I don't think the board wanted to add...there's...there's no Deputy Director, so I think they wanted to...this was more of a...a priority than having a Deputy in the...in the...the department.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, I'm going to move on to...is there any...anything...any proposed amendments to Category A, which is Salaries, or B...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to decrease Category A by \$26,998.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 26,998?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's for Fiscal Year '27 expansion positions, two year...two months off each position they requested.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did I have a second from Member U'u-Hodgins? Yeah, second from Member U'u-Hodgins. And that was the discussion. All in favor, Members, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes," motion carries.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Reduce Category A by \$26,998 in the East Maui Water Authority.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next...let's see. Anything for B Account? Any amendments? Seeing none. Capital improvements, there are no proposal CIPs for the East Maui Water Authority, and also, no grant, Special Purpose Revenue, or rates and fees for the East Maui Water Authority. Does anyone have anything else for the East Maui Water Authority? Seeing none. Okay. That is done. Member Pal...Batangan, you don't have, yeah? Nothing. Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies to interject. Staff will just want to note that we have noted on the priority matrix that Chair Lee might have an offset in the East Maui Water Authority related to 250,000...\$253,000 in professional services. It's Chair Lee's grant number 1.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I with...I withdraw that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have a different offset.

MR. KRUEGER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, then that completes the department then, huh? Okay. All right. So, we are done with the departments so far, I...I said we just got the Emergency Management response, which is going to tie in to what Member Paltin is

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

April 20, 2026

saying is...is for one of her alternative priorities, and we will take this up from tomorrow. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can...I can do my priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you want.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're ready for Emergency Management.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You want to do it then? I will...let's proceed. Members' priority. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to add 2.3 million to Emergency Management Agency to address their top two wildfire risks...just the Tier 1. I feel that Tier 2 could be taken out of the 300,000 that...if...if they get through Tier 1, that the Mayor has 300,000 to steward County parcels in his budget. So, if they get through Tier 1, they say Tier 2 for priority 1 and 2 is 50,000 each. So, if they get through Tier 1, they can tap the Mayor's money for County-stewarded parcels. But 2.3 million to address the first...the top two priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion Member...made by Member Paltin, second by Member U'u-Hodgins. And this is for...to add...can you say it again? Add 2...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Increase Emergency Management Agency's Category B/C by 2.3 million to address their top two priority wildfire risks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And that's what you were waiting for? Okay. So, this is your priority. All right. So, that is the motion. All in favor...or any more discussion? All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes," motion carries. Everybody.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Increase Category B/C by \$2.3 million in the Maui Emergency Management Agency.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Operating Budget, page 5. Members, are there any proposed adjustments to Category Salaries for Emergency Management...or Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I propose to delete funding for all FY '27...2027 expansion positions. A need to establish the roles of MEMA and Office of...Office of Recovery as they overlap, and if the expansion positions are needed in MEMA or Office of Recovery. This is \$323,340 plus fringe. It's not lack of support, it's just another one of those things with Department of Personnel Services and sorting out what...whether it's going to be in MEMA or Office of Recovery because there seems to be an overlap. So, that's my proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- so, it'll be for \$323,340...\$43 [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One of those was a warm body though, that was funded from Maui United Way, that they wanted to roll over. And that might be what Director Milner has to say. Not sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes. If you see EMA-3, question 4A, P-00767, Emergency Management Specialist IV is the one that's currently funded by Maui United Way, and that's why full-year funding has been included for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, how much does that affect my proposal?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We don't want to say that that's...that's a warm body position, and that's confidential information. Right?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm trying not to...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, how about my colleague assist me in my propo...is it...basically that doesn't fulfill all of this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, in other words, it's not the entire amount then.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What if you just put back 80,000?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair? I saw Director Milner come on. Maybe she can add to this . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director, are you...I was going to do the . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. If we want to work in ballparks rather than specific numbers, I think if you could reduce your request by approximately 65,000, that would leave the department enough to cover for that position. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hmm. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, reducing the 323,340 by 65,000?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Okay. You can do the math, yeah? They got it. Oh. Director Milner, that's what you said, right? Reduce that 323 by 65,000?

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins, your hand is up?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I haven't had a minute to look at Member Cook's thought process. Like are all of these expansion positions that are not with DPS yet? Member Cook? Are they with...is the description created?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't believe so, and I think the challenge also is that...whose department it's going to be in. I couldn't tell you if it's created.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Because right now...I know that there's a little bit of confusion of like what MEMA is doing, and then what Police do, and what Fire do. But from my perspective, in...in how I think they work, looking at this fire mitigation, they attempt to mitigate risk so that the Fire Department does...or Police Department doesn't even have to be activated is how I think it works. And I know they're trying to become more active to prevent any future preventable disasters, so I'm a bit hesitant in cutting all of their funding. Would you be willing to like cut that proposal in half?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I share your support of theirs. I would be supportive of eliminating just 200,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: What...what...can you remind me of what it is?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's 323. So...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: 323.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. We could do...about half of that would be --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: 323.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- about 160,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And then we're also going to take away the 65 that's already provided by somebody else, and then we're going to end up with a number, and then we can cut that in half?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's 250...258,343...if you take out the 65,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sorry, Chair. Can you please say that number again?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, 343 minus 65,000 is 258,343.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: 2...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 58.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: 58.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I got 260.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Let us go 258 then.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 258. No loose change. Are you going to...

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Which is 129 in Salaries.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you good with that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sold.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: If that's okay with you. Because...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We would cut 129,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm okay with that. Who seconded?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'll second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee. All right. Member Cook, Chair Lee. Thank you. All right. So, the motion is that we're going to cut 129,000 off of this 323...whatever that amount is. Member Cook is good with that, right?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: 129,000 from the FY 2027 expansion positions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And they...they...they manage it as they will.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah. All right. Oh, coffee. Okay. Members, ready to vote? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez...all right. Nine "ayes," motion carries.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Reduce Category A FY 2027 expansion positions by \$129,000.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Very good. CIP...there are no proposed CIPs for this department. And Appendix A, grant budget, page 39, are there any amendments for this section? None. There are no Special Purpose Revenues or rates and fees for the Emergency Management Agency. Does anybody have anything else for MEMA?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What does Contractual Services fall under?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you have Contractual Services?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's B.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Category B.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Category B. Go ahead. Do you have a proposal for B...Category B?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I have a proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Decrease funding under Contractual Services by 150,000, for a new fund total of \$208,100. There seems to be a duplication of services under Professional Services, which is increasing by 500,000, for a total of 1.6 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're going to...your motion is to decrease this by 100...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, reducing it by 150,000, for a new fund total of 208,100.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Motion made by Member --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What page?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Cook, and second by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What...what...what's the Budget Detail page? Was it 6-10?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, 6-10 on the top.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair Lee? Or, Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- Sugimura, I have a...I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What services are being duplicated? If you know that, Councilmember Cook?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, go ahead. I think what he's talking about is because of the many services that are needed for response, I think there's some confusion and duplication. I even heard that from some firefighters out there, and...I didn't hear it from Chief, but I heard it from firefighters that because of everything that goes on, it's...sometimes looks con...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I guess...you know --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Duplicate.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- leading...leading into that, which ones are being duplicative and which one of the two duplications are we going to cut? Is it...is it...you know, this department or the other department that would...that would be more suited? I don't know, that's why I figured I'd ask. Because it's not my proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's a good question. I don't have all my notes with me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ready to vote. We're going to decrease this --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not vote...I'm not ready. I have a question.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Cook...okay. So, you said you wanted to delete 200,000 to Professional Services, and this is for funding to enhance Agency and Emergency Operations Center operation readiness through training, plan development, and the design and execution for functional and threat-specific exercises. Funds will also support increased community engagement, consulting services, hazard mitigation projects, electric battery response, capabilities for arising needs under EOC activation at emergency response?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's what it says on 6-10. If I can add?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, Member...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If I can add? I'm not sure. It looks like...if you're referring to the 400,000 for resilience hubs, my reading of the parentheses is that's a deletion. Is that your reading too? Not that it's a...it's a continuation, but because there's parentheses, the continuation is deleted. Is that...if you thought that the 400,000 was continuing? Or I don't know who knows the answer. If it's in parentheses...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It looks like there's a...like a deletion in the continued request and...of 598,000 in the expansion request, so the total ends up being 1.6 million from the 1.4.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And 1.4 minus 400 plus 598.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, they're really adding 198,921.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. But I'm not sure if Member Cook thought that they were continuing the 400,000 because...or Director Milner, parentheses means minus, right?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or is that what...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, the parentheses means a reduction. But I do just want out for the body's information that in this case, it's a transfer. We moved that 400,000 to a specific line item for the Resiliency Hub

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

April 20, 2026

Network, which is why it moved out of that Professional Services category. So, I did just want to make that clear for the body. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Budget Director, where did it go, the 400,000?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Resiliency Hub Network.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Where?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Resiliency...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, there's a line item that's been added to the budget for the Resiliency Hub Network in the amount of 400,000. It's on page 6-11.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I see it. Resiliency Hubs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...if...I would be ready to vote once we identify the duplication.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...and then Chair, I'm not supportive of this. It feels like duplication during blue skies, and then disaster strikes, and then there's not enough people. But this is...what...what I read is some of the things that my community asked for just yesterday when Mayor held his storm-related Kona Low meeting...that we need more training, and exercise in community engagement, and preparedness. Like this is exactly what my community asked for at that meeting. So, I won't be supporting this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. But were you going to tell us what the duplications were?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Because I don't have the information with me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My notes. So, anyway, I just...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll...I'll be voting no because I don't see a duplication.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, so, I just want to move on because I don't have your answer right now, and I'm just tired.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Would you like to withdraw it, and then we...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes. I...I would like to withdraw it, and I will bring it back.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, then we're done with that then. Member Cook, we're good? Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Batangan. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I have another proposal I'd like to make.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'd like to decrease the B Account by \$50,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. B Account by 50,000. Emergency...go ahead. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. So, in looking at this page of the detail, 6-10, you know, I...I'm aware that they're proposing to add six new E/Ps, but the amount that they're adding for different lines seems excessive, right? If they had 25 people last year, they would ask for \$20,000 for cellular telephone services. They're adding \$10,000 for those six people now, so a 50 percent increase for a one-sixth increase in people. And so, there...there's just a few things here that seem like they're inflated. You know, there's telephones at \$50,000 already. You know, per diem, nonreportable, right, is doubling, from 30,000 to 60,000 for the department, given they...which seems excessive, given the expansion of, you know, only six people. \$90,000 for just air...air...airfare and transportation seems excessive. I...I'm not necessarily proposing to cut from any specific line item, but I think in the totality, all...all of that. These expansions, based on an increase of six E/Ps, seem disproportionate to the amount of increases they're asking for for all of the line items, and I'm...I'm just saying \$50,000, and then the department can figure out how they want to divvy it up. But I...I think some of the things that they're requesting for are excessive, given the explanation that it's for the six expansion positions.

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

April 20, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, your motion is to deduct 50,000 from...and it's for Category B?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Chair Lee second. Any other discussion?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, actually, I think I already had a second that was already in discussion. So, it was...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I don't think so. I think she...I think what you said, Member Batangan, was, I would like to... That's how you started that sentence, I would like to...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry. I thought Nohe had seconded it, but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Happy...happy to.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: E kala mai, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: She would like to also. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Now you have double...Chair Lee and Member U'u-Hodgins. All right. So, we have a second, and you have explained. Member ready to...Members, ready to vote? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye, aye, aye. Okay. Member Johnson, you voted? Yeah. Nine "ayes," motion carries.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Reduce Category B by \$50,000 in Maui Emergency Management Agency.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm on page...Budget Details page 6-11. I would like to delete Maui Search and Rescue for \$10,000, Index Code 912066B-6317, subject-object code description, and if I get a second, I can explain.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In this years' information, Maui Search and Rescue have not applied for the 10,000 they were allotted this year, and something about they're noncompliant with the filings that they can get money...shoot. Wait, let me try. I might have explained it in my cut list...or recorded it. The vendor is noncompliant, and an application was not received in Fiscal Year 2026. That's my discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Done. Next.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Done. Okay. All in...oh. Did you get it? We're deleting the 10,000 for Maui Search and Rescue. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes," motion carries.

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

April 20, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Reduce Category B by \$10,000 to remove funding for Maui Search and Rescue.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Moving right along here. Is that it, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, I mean, the Red Cross, I think, also didn't apply for their money, but the administrator said they're in flux. So, I don't know. I'll leave it to you guys, I'll just drop that little nugget of information, and you do with it what you will.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How much are you talking about?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: \$55,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 55,000 is...is what is allocated in the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And it's been not applied for? Is that what you said?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In Fiscal Year '26.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And they're in flux, which means they need a new administrator or something like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I know after the fire, we were working with this one lady, and she got fired, but I forget her name. She was on O'ahu. She was...yeah. She was advocating for the things that I was saying was wrong, and then she got fired.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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

April 20, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't know if they hired someone new and that person left. There was a...like a Jennie Worth (*phonetic*) for a little bit and...so the...the...why that came up, I guess, in the conversation that...about the in flux...because we had seen them during the consecutive Kona Low storms request for members of the community or Staff of the County to open the shelters. And my question was, like aren't we granting American Red Cross \$55,000, and then they assist us with the shelters? And then they said, they're in flux, and that they mostly will operate the shelters that are opened by the DOE properties, but, you know, in the past when we open the Civic, the Red Cross staffed it. Not saying that I'm partial to the Red Cross staffing it because they have very strict rules...like, you know, after the fire in 2018, so many people came to feed the shelter people, and they're like oh, no, you can't bring food, or oh, no, you can't bring ice...if you bring ice, it's just the personal amount of ice for your medication. So, it's not really what I feel like is trauma-informed. They got their own rules and regs which seem harsh to us local people. So, after the second fire, that's why some people made the Brown Cross Hui, because the Red Cross was not a good fit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, your...your motion is to delete...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, they had their own vests and everything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you making a motion to delete...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was dropping a nugget in case anyone wanted to pick it up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I see the Budget Director has come online.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Does she have any information she'd like to share on this particular grant?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Director Milner. Sorry.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Nine Members is plenty, so thank you. Yes. I just...I've been in communication with MEMA, and they do have new leadership at the Red Cross. They sent them over the application for Fiscal Year '26 to complete it to be able to encumber the funding this fiscal year. So, they do anticipate being able to make that award next fiscal year, but obviously, continuing support is at the body's discretion. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. What kind of nugget do you want? Okay. Go ahead. Member Batangan.

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

April 20, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Question for the Budget Director. Is that leadership local here on Maui? Did they fill the position? I think it was only like a week or two ago, I had run into the Executive Director from the Northwest or Alaska...like I don't know, a different region was covering Maui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Alaska.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Alaska --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- was here. So, is that indicative of them filling the local position here on Maui?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. My understanding is that the position's on O'ahu.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Interesting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's why we need the Brown Cross Hui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, are you saying this satisfies you, and keep the funding there, Member Paltin? Or shall we...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess. I just think we need a local organization in tune with our local people. And, you know, maybe in two years, I'd be up to that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Are you proposing we change the allocation to the Brown Cross Hui?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Brown Cross Hui disbanded with the hubs after the fire.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I guess we're...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: It doesn't sound like anybody's making a motion to move --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, sort of sounds like that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- to remove this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that will stay then. I did say there's no CIPs, there's no grants...or as proposed we are talking about grants. So there are no Special Purpose Revenue or rates and fees for Emergency Management. Does anybody else have any amendments? Seeing none. Okay. Thank you reading the response, Member Paltin.

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

April 20, 2026

We are done with MEMA. And do you guys want to continue? It's 5:53, let's...let's recess until tomorrow...oh, we're not going to recess, we're going to adjourn this meeting because we're going to start off with DEM...and what other departments? We sent you that list. What departments we have tomorrow? I don't have my list in front of me. I have DEM...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have the list. We have DEM, Finance, Fire, Housing, Human Concerns, and Liquor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, we're going to start off with DEM tomorrow. Thank you very much. Members, this...for discussion today, we have finally got ourself organized, and appreciate your patience. We will then see you tomorrow at 9:00. This meeting is now adjourned. . . . *(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 5:54 p.m.

bfed:min:260420-d:ds/kes

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck and
Katherine E. Schlappi

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

April 20, 2026

CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 120 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.

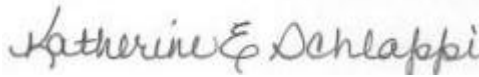
DATED the 28th day of May 2026, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck

I, Katherine E. Schlappi, hereby certify that pages 120 through 178 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 28th day of May 2026, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Katherine E. Schlappi