

**DISASTER RECOVERY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,  
AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
Council of the County of Maui

**MINUTES**

**September 3, 2025**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE:** 1:32 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Chair  
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member (left at 3:12 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (left at 2:26 p.m.)  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member (left at 2:26 p.m.)  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

**STAFF:** Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst  
Keone Hurdle, Legislative Analyst (backup)  
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney  
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary  
Jean Pokipala, Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office  
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office  
Clyde “Buddy” Almeida, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

**ADMIN.:** Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, Administrator, Maui Emergency Management Agency  
Peter “Kono” Davis, Assistant Administrator, Maui Emergency Management Agency  
Rylan Yatsushiro, Battalion Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety (DRIP-9(5))  
Wade Maeda, Deputy Police Chief, Department of Police (DRIP-9(5))  
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Jasee Law (DRIP-14)  
Others (25)

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CHAIR PALTIN: . . .(*gavel*). . . Will the Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee come to order. The time is now 1:32. If everyone can please silence their cell phones, that will help our cause. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law,

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if you are not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Also, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. My name is Tamara Paltin, and I will be your Chair for today's DRIP Committee meeting. We also have with us Vice...Committee Vice-Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. Aloha 'auinalā and yassas...yassous [sic]...yassus [sic].

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha 'auinalā. I'm going to stick to one I know how to pronounce enough.

CHAIR PALTIN: And we also have Committee Member Tom Cook. Yassous [sic] and aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: And we also have Committee Member Gabe Johnson. Yassous [sic] and aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yassous [sic], Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office, and I'm alone in my workspace. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And we also have Committee Member Tasha Kama. Yassas and aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair, and yassou to all of you also.

CHAIR PALTIN: And we have Committee Member...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I'm alone --

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- in my workspace. I'm alone in my workspace by myself. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(laughing) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No worries.

CHAIR PALTIN: And we have Committee Member Alice Lee. Yassas, yassos [sic], yassou, and aloha 'auinalā.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yessah. Okay. Good afternoon. And Madam Chair, looking forward to your meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And we also have Committee Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Yessah and aloha ‘auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha ‘auinalā, Chair, mai Molokai nui a Hina. I’m at my...in my home office alone, and there are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office. Mahalo, Chair. Oh, and then I do have a meeting at 4:00, so I’ll...I’ll likely be on this meeting and that meeting, just...mahalo.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And we do have a hard stop at 4:30 because tonight is Wednesday night community meeting in Lahaina as well. Next up, we have Committee Member Shane Sinenci. Aloha ‘auinalā and yassou.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha ‘auinalā, Chair, and Jesus. I’m here at my home office, I’m here by myself, and there are no testifiers in Hāna, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And last, but not least, we have Committee Member Yuki Lei Sugimura. Aloha ‘auinalā and yassous [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aloha ‘auinalā, yassous [sic], and I’m so happy to have a neighbor sitting next to me, Chair Lee. She’s kind of fun when you sit next to her.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. No talking, or I’m going to have to separate you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: She makes all kine comments. . . .(laughing). . . Like you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Only I can talk. . . .(laughing). . . Okay. This meeting of the Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee of the Maui County Council is located on the traditional ‘āina of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi, who never ceded their sovereignty to the United States. We recognize that Her Majesty, Queen Lili‘uokalani, yielded the Hawaiian Kingdom to the U.S. in duress under threat of violence to avoid the bloodshed of her people. We further recognize that Hawai‘i remains an illegally-occupied nation-state by the U.S., as documented in a 2021 scholarly article for the National Lawyers Guild Review by Andrew Reid, Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Generations of Kānaka Maoli and their knowledge systems have sustainably cared for Hawai‘i, and continue to do so. We are grateful to occupy this space and learn the ways in which we can contribute. As a Committee, we seek to support the varied strategies that indigenous people of Hawai‘i are using to protect their land and their communities, and commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity. Mai ka Administration, we have Maui Emergency Management Administrator and other person, Amos Lonokailua-Hewett and Kono. And then we also have, from the Department of Fire and Public Safety, Battalion Chief Rylan Yatsushiro; Deputy Police Chief, Department of Police, Wade Maeda; and Deputy Corporation Counsel Mike Hopper. Our

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Committee Staff today, we have Senior Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier; Legislative Analysts Jarret Pascual and Keone Hurdle; Legislative Attorney Carla Nakata; and Assistant Clerk Jean Pokipala. We have two items on today's agenda. One is a bill, and one is a presentation. We will take testimony after opening remarks or presentations.

**BILL 82 (2025), AMENDING SECTION 10.04.030, MAUI COUNTY CODE,  
RELATING TO AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES (DRIP-14)**

CHAIR PALTIN: DRIP-14, Bill 82 (2025), amends Section 10.04.030, Maui County Code, Relating to Authorized Emergency Vehicles. The Committee is in receipt of Bill 82, whose purpose is to amend the definition of authorized emergency vehicle under the Maui Traffic Code to include emergency vehicles used by the Maui Emergency Management Agency. An amendment summary form dated August 26, 2025, from the...from myself with a proposed CD1 version of Bill 82 (2025), is also posted. The proposed CD1 version incorporates nonsubstantive revisions for clarity, consistency, and style. The Committee may consider whether to recommend passage of Bill 82 (2025) on first reading, with or without revisions. The Committee may also consider the filing of Bill 82 (2025), and other related action. So, that's our first item. And, you know, since Chief Amos has taken the helm, we've had quite a bit of instances. And so, that's why I scheduled this bill when...when we're all available. It aligns Maui Emergency Management Agency emergency vehicles privileges along the same lines as police vehicles, ambulances, and fire trucks. So, at this time, is there any opening comments or presentation from Chief Lonokailua-Hewett about Bill 82? Oh, you just press the button on the bottom. Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Aloha mai kākou. Thank you, Chair. So, thank you for the opportunity to speak on Bill 82. I just wanted to kind of inform you on why...what kind of move this forward as...as something that we, you know, need to amend or change to help protect our community. It is related more so...it started off, at least, related to how the isolated communities, staff specialists, engage in emergencies. In the communities of East Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i, the resources there are already lean. And what that means is...well, let's go with a fire, for instance. You...you don't have a battalion chief, or any kind of administrative, or executive-type officer that manages the strategic perspective of the threat, and how that threat impacts the community. And so, the staff specialist responding to a call is our solution to that. They...they respond to the call, they link up with the incident commanders, they are basically a resource for incident commanders on the ground, which is typically going to be a captain who is pulling line. And when the captain is pulling line in a fire, he may or may not lose his ability to look at the incident in a strategic way, which is how that smoke is impacting, how the fire spread is impacting adjacent areas, how roads are being impacted, so on and so forth. And then what requests and resources, whether it's from the County resources on island or from County and State, from Maui EOC. And so, the solution we feel is the best one is to have our staff specialist respond in emergency, connect with the IC, be a part of unified command to support strategic management of the threat. They provide

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connectivity to Maui EOC. Like I said, they enhanced situation awareness. We have purchased drones to enhance the situation awareness connectivity to the Maui EOC, and of course, it improves the way public messaging happens because we have better situation awareness. So, having, you know, the staff specialist travel across East Maui, travel across Lānaʻi, travel across Molokaʻi, want to give them the opportunity to, you know, bypass traffic if necessary, and, you know, within the law of emergency vehicle use, and give them the best opportunity to arrive safely on scene and connect with the incident commanders. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Did anyone from Fire or Police want to give opening comments on this bill? It's not necessary. Okay. Probably not. Staff, do we have any testifiers for this item?

MR. HURDLE: Chair, we currently have no one signed up.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I see a regular approaching the podium. I think he knows all the rules. I'll just remind him three minutes, and that's about it.

**. . .OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY (DRIP-14). . .**

MR. LAW: Aloha. Jasee Law from Kula Uka. Thank you, Director, and limahana, for coming up to Kula Community Association meeting the other night, letting us know that you're still there to provide assistance. When I think of you guys, it's kind of like...I don't know what's going on down there in the basement, it's kind of like a special operations. I usually don't bother you guys too much. It seems like a different government going on down there. But it's just nice to know you guys are around in case of emergencies. I guess I just hope I don't ever need your help. And I just come to this meeting especially for the...the Luna Ho'omaluku's part about the...the illegal occupation of Hawai'i. And I see a lot of stuff on the newspaper about the United States President using the...his powers for...using the military and other agencies to enforce his opinions. And I just was...this came to my mind, I was wondering, like if you guys were around back in 1893, how that all would have transpired. But that's about all I got. Thank you guys for your time.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Staff, if there's no one else ready to testify, we'll entertain a last call.

MR. HURDLE: Yeah, Chair, that's all individuals, so we'll do a last call for oral testimony on DRIP-14. If anyone else would like to testify, please come up to the podium, or raise your hand on Teams if you would like to testify. The countdown is three...two...one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Members, any objections to closing public testimony and accepting written testimony into the record?

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COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . .CLOSED PUBLIC TESTIMONY (DRIP-14) . . .**

CHAIR PALTIN: All righty. Members, I would like to open the floor for discussion. I propose four-minute rounds of questions for as many rounds as we need to get this vetted out. And let's start with Committee Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins for your opportunity.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. So, thank you guys for being here. Thank you for your presentation. Your staff specialists, you've done a really good job at hiring a lot of the retired firemen and chiefs. Is that who you envision kind of helping assist on the ground with protocol? And then what happens if, let's say, the BC is there, or the captain on duty is there, and maybe not pulling line? Wha...who leads command?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for the question. So, the command always stays with the Police Department or the Fire Department. Our function is never in command, it's always coordination and support.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And so, we would, you know, support the commander in seeing the bigger picture, if necessary.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And on those...in those particular areas, those isolated communities, it's definitely more needed than maybe in other areas of Kahului, where the battalion chief can just drive up.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: But yeah, so command always stays with the...either the Police Department or the Fire Department.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Although I know we're really only talking about you folks using emergency sirens in vehicles--which I'm happy to support--but since you were talking about that, I was just curious. Other than that, I have no questions, and I'm happy to support. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Cook, any questions for your opportunity, or discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. Thanks. I'm curious, is it going to be on regular vehicles that you put the light on and you have a siren on it? Or is it going to be special vehicles that are marked for Emergency Management?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: The vehicles are marked for Emergency Management, yeah, with...with light bars and sirens, to include potentially radios as well...mobile radios as well.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Cool. I'm supportive.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, for your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Member Cook asked my question. But I guess when you say...oh, aloha, Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett. So, when you say radio on board, that's like the internal. Are you going to also have like a...like a...I don't...I don't know --

CHAIR PALTIN: PA, public address.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- if . . .*(inaudible)*. . . cars have it, but a speaker on the outside too? Or...

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes, we would have a mobile radio, as well as a PA system. PA...yeah, system.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: PA? Okay. Mahalo. I support. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Next up, Member Johnson, for your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett, for joining us today, and your team. It's...I don't really have much questions. I was kind of going through it, but I do have one that came up because...can it be any vehicle? I mean, what if...I...I...I'd hate to call out like what-if scenarios, but what if, on your way to work in your private car, something happens, you have to go and do...do something in your private car, do you have like a kit that is just--like I think of the old '70s shows where they put the siren out on top? Is that a thing anymore? I don't know, but what do you...I guess basically, what happens when you're in a private car? I would hate for you to have to go back to the County Building, get in the real...a car with the sirens. It just would slow it down in my...in the scenario that I'm thinking of.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That...thanks for that question, and it is still a thing. However --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Cool.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- the idea or the plan, at least initially, is to use marked County vehicles. We are sending a vehicle to Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi. We just received two of our Colorado trucks. We are equipping them to, you know, drive in emergency response,

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and East Maui already has one. So, it typically will be on marked vehicles. At this point, I'm not considering personal vehicles with kits to respond.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks for that clarification. You know, I assume that vehicle would be for George Purdy working on Lānaʻi. What...can you describe the vehicle? What year, make, model is it? Do you know?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I believe it's a 2025 Colorado crew cab. It would have, like I said...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's a four-wheel drive, right?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Four-wheel drive. Four-wheel drive, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Smaller vehicle. You know, I definitely checked with...with those folks, larger vehicle versus smaller vehicle. With the isolated communities, the smaller access points, the big trucks, not as...as good.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And so, we went with the smaller vehicles for those areas.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Makes sense to me, and that's really good input. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Administrator.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And Member Lee, for your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Where are you going to park the vehicles?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. We're trying to secure office spaces in Lānaʻi, East Maui, as well as Molokaʻi. There's some...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, no. In Wailuku...I mean in...on Maui, not the outer areas.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Oh, with the new EOC?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: We...we have parking in the back of the Telecom [sic] building.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And when are you folks going to move?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So --

CHAIR PALTIN: Take your time, but hurry up.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- the most updated timeline is January, and we're --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: January.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- supposed to sign in August 11th, and supply chain is delayed. That has kind of put us in a delay, and January is our best guess, best timeline, most recent timeline.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I'm stretching this a little bit. You know, in an emergency like Lahaina, where the cell towers were down, and you couldn't use cell phones and so forth, what is the protocol when you can't use the normal means of communication?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Are you talking about the communication to the public, or the communication between...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, just amongst yourselves.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. And so, you know, the expectation is have the mobile radios. I mean, if our public radio system goes down, then we're in a really bad spot. I mean, if you're talking about the Fire Department and Police Department not being able to speak or use the public safety radio, if that's what we're talking about, that's going to be a bad space. Related to how we bolster the critical infrastructure to ensure that that doesn't happen, we support the Police Department in all of their efforts through grants that are available through Homeland Security. And all I can do is, related to the infrastructure that hopefully is resistant to or resilient to whatever disaster comes our way, I...I support the infrastructure. Related to how we connect with Police and Fire, we would be operating off of the public safety radio system.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. One more question. Okay. We have another disaster. What about the idea of leasing or buying a satellite?

CHAIR PALTIN: You mean Starlink?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, something like that.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Oh. So, the...the intent for the...definitely the isolated communities is their vehicles will have Starlinks and drones that we can, you know, bolster that connectivity. That is not the plan on the Maui vehicles at this point. It is the plan for the isolated communities though.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Sugimura, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I support this, first of all, but when I read it, I thought, I just always...I never thought that you were not on that list. So, thank you, Member Paltin, for including them. And keep on going, you guys are doing a great job. Thank you.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No questions. Call for the vote.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Kama, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Director, how many vehicles do you anticipate being on island, or being within your...your Department in terms of emergency vehicles?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, currently we have five. If you're talking about emergency vehicles, I would...I mean, if I...if I could dream it all up, I would say all my section chiefs had...would have vehicles to be able to respond. You know, we use the grant monies to purchase the vehicles, and those grant monies are not as available as they were before, especially for vehicles. And so, I'd have to find a way to justify it in budget. And...and...but we currently have one, two, three, four--six vehicles total. Is it six or seven?

MR. DAVIS: Six.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Six. Three are in isolated communities, and...and then for all of Maui, the bigger portion of Maui, there's three.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And is that sufficient?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: No. . . .*(laughing)*. . . But that's what we have, and we...we're trying to do our best with it. I mean, there's...there's other things that we are considering as well that pull in vehicles, which, you know, has to do with the way we handle our logistics and supply chain, and we are considering what that looks like and improving that, which brings box trucks into our conversation. And right now, the plan for that isn't certain.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hum, um-hum. But would you include in your budget every year at least an additional vehicle, or whatever that you need, to be able to increase your vehicles?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. I mean, we're trying to look for how we improve the gathering of information to, you know, support and improve operational coordination

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and messaging. We've entertained the idea of our vehicles in Maui also going to incidents.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And, you know, I mean that's...that's something we're considering. There's, you know, relationships to build to make that work. There's agreements, and of course, buying the vehicles, so on and so forth. I think this is an important step for us to even now --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- consider how we --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- would improve responding, which would identify the number of vehicles we think we need.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right. Right. And do you anticipate at any time having your...your battalion chiefs or someone up at that level to actually have a vehicle...to actually have 24/7? I mean, stuff happens at the most inconvenient times.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But to be able to have...

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Go ahead.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I mean, yes. We...we...so, currently...so I take home my vehicle, and I've responded from my house in emergency numerous times...well, have responded quickly, not with lights and sirens, but... And we do have section chiefs, higher-level leadership that live in...in the Wailuku area close by, and they always respond. We stand up that...the...the EOC much more than we've done in the past, simply because the community...it needs the information, and so we've been standing up in fires.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, there is more of a need for us to at least respond to the EOC. I mean, for the tsunami --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- you know, my...my deputy was stuck in traffic as well, two and a half hours to get to the EOC and . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . so, yes, there's a need to improve and...and potentially procure more vehicles moving forward.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I think this is --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- a step that allows me to start looking at that in a --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right. Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- more strategic way.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Well, thank you for looking at that. Because if you are stuck in traffic, and you are in an emergency vehicle, you could have cut through that traffic real quick. But you don't, you're in your, I don't know, 4x4 Rover, and you're stuck like everybody else. But without having an emergenc...emergency vehicle, you can't go anywhere. But I'm glad that you're thinking about that, and I'm very happy to hear that. And thank you, Chair, for bringing this forward.

CHAIR PALTIN: Sure thing.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Kama, just checking in. No problem, but did...were you able to hear the bell?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, no, I didn't. I'm sorry.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay. We'll work on that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Let's see, who's next? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Administrator Hewett. I'm also supportive of the...the proposal. I just had a couple questions. I wasn't sure about sirens, and if there's a difference between them...if there's a difference between the ambulance or...or the police sirens, whether it be the cadence, or the...is...is there such a thing, and would...would your sirens have kind of the similar, or one specific to the Emergency Management Agency?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, I don't think we would have a specific siren to Emergency Management. We would follow the...I don't think there's a specific sound to each agency. In emergency response, one of the rules in emergency response is that the sirens and the lights work hand-in-hand, which determines, in emergency response, they have to work together. So, we would equip our vehicles with...with lights and sirens that could effectively notify the public when we are responding.

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

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. I just had a few questions for my opportunity. When I used to drive emergency response vehicles--I guess, when we were under Parks and Rec, we must have been doing it illegally--but then we moved to Fire and Public Safety. I know like Committee Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins said, that you're picking up a lot of battalion chiefs and retired personnel, but is it only the staff specialists that would be driving the emergency response vehicle, or would it be any MEMA? And if it is any MEMA employee, will they get the emergency response vehicle training? I think we had Mr. Au (*phonetic*) when I...when I used to work, and it was a one-time thing. So, would there be training for people that weren't previously in emergency response? And how often would they get the training, is the first question?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, thank you for the question. Yes, of course we would want to ensure that we have policy and training to support our...all of our operators operating the emergency vehicle in the right way. I don't have a...a specific training plan in mind. Being in the Training Division for the Fire Department, I'm familiar with the emergency vehicle operations, and what that would entail. You know, at the very least, there would be quarterly training. There's various course-types of training we would do. I would just have to formulate it in a training plan, which I'm very familiar with doing. I don't underst...I don't have the timeline at this point on what they would go, but they would have to go through some form of certification and training, and...and some refresher, and that would be reflected in a policy. It would be reflected in what are the rules in operating the vehicle on the highway. You know --

CHAIR PALTIN: So...

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- some of the common things, as you know.

CHAIR PALTIN: So, at this time, the plan is just for staff specialists in MEMA only, or all your employees?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It would be all.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It would eventually be all. We would prioritize with the staff specialists. As we entertain section chiefs having vehicles and...and...and more

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response...responsibilities, then that would move towards, you know, all. And I think inevitably, it would be all.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And so, then after this bill passes, first...or even before first reading, when we move it out of Committee, you...you would just...you could just borrow like Fire and Public Safety policies --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- and things like that, just --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- replicate it. Is there any additional insurance requirements?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I would have to figure...find that out. I...I'm not sure about that information.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then when you said isolated communities, and there's three, I just...for my knowledge, is West Maui considered part of your three, or it's only...

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It's not part of the three.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: East Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Because sometimes we get isolated.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: For sure.

CHAIR PALTIN: And then, like if you've got to go out when it's high tide or south swell, you'll get stuck in traffic probably. Let's see. So, you don't need to recreate the training. And most of the people that have those emergency response vehicles now, they already had the training before?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah, I mean, they're familiar with the training. For some of them that are retired, they are far removed from it. So, you know, refresher training, some, you know, form of ensuring that...that we are where we're supposed to be related to operating the vehicles. We want to obviously ensure that those things are understood, and we follow best practices to ensure that, you know, the County is also protected in...in how we navigate response.

CHAIR PALTIN: And then I just wanted to clarify, I forget who you responded to, that the lights and sirens work together. For our vehicles, had separate switch. And if it's like the

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middle of the night, could you just do lights so that we wouldn't unnecessarily wake up neighborhoods?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, you know, my recollection is that officially emergency vehicle operations includes lights and sirens simultaneously. I mean, we've done that in the evening where we don't turn on our sirens. At that point, we're subject to the regular traffic laws.

CHAIR PALTIN: Like don't run the...the lights. I mean, don't run a red light if you no more the siren kine.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah, and...and the speed on...on the road. Yeah. So, yeah, they have to...

CHAIR PALTIN: So, you're only running the lights, then follow all the traffic laws.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: Got it, got it. Okay. Does anyone have a need for round two? No? Okay. The Chair will entertain a motion to recommend passage of Bill 82 (2025), on first reading.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR PALTIN: Moved by Member Cook, second by Chair Lee. The Chair will also entertain a motion to substitute Bill 82 with the proposed CD1 version listed on Granicus as attachment 5.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR PALTIN: Again, moved by Member Cook, second by Member Lee. As I stated earlier, the proposed CD1 version simply incorporates nonsubstantive revisions for clarity, consistency, and style. Any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor of the substitution, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR PALTIN: Unanimous.

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**VOTE:        AYES:        Chair Paltin, Vice-Chair U‘u-Hodgins, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Kama, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura.**

**NOES:        None.**

**ABSTAIN:    None.**

**ABSENT:     None.**

**EXC.:        None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE** motion to substitute Bill 82 (2025) with proposed CD1 version

CHAIR PALTIN: And then back to the main motion as amended. We’re going to hana hou that. All those in favor, raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR PALTIN: Unanimous. Main motion passes.

**VOTE:        AYES:        Chair Paltin, Vice-Chair U‘u-Hodgins, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Kama, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura.**

**NOES:        None.**

**ABSTAIN:    None.**

**ABSENT:     None.**

**EXC.:        None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     Recommending **FIRST READING** of Bill 82, CD1 (2025) by committee report**

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. That item is finished. Does anyone need a pause for the cause at this time? Seeing none. Okay.

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**OVERVIEW OF GENASYS PROTECT (DRIP-9(5)) (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR PALTIN: Moving right along to DRIP-9(5), Overview of Genasys Protect. Let's see. *(pause)* Under Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee intends to receive a presentation from Maui Emergency Management Agency on Genasys Protect, an emergency management software that includes evacuation management tools, and can send targeted emergency notifications to the public. The Committee may discuss matters relating to Genasys Protect with the Maui Emergency Management Agency, Department of Fire and Public Safety, and Department of Police. The Committee may also discuss other related matters, but no legislative action will be taken. And I scheduled this item kind of as a little bit of a public Council debrief after the recent Kamchatka Peninsula earthquake, which led to the tidal wave warning in late July, and the Kā'anapali brush fire in early August. You know, there were a lot of things going around on social media, like why didn't they evacuate this? Why didn't they do it like this? So, it's just intended to bring a little clarity about the processes, and a debrief on those two instances. I think not everybody is aware that MEMA does not call for the evacuation. And people were like why didn't MEMA do this? And that's not how it works. So, it's just to bring some clarity and awareness to the general public, as well as this body. So, at this time, any opening statements from...we have resources from MEMA, Fire, and Police. And then we'll take public testimony, and open it up for discussion after that. So, maybe we'll start off with the presentation by MEMA, and then open it up for comments from Fire and Police after that.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Genasys. What I want to say is that, you know, it is new software for the State of Hawai'i, and the State of Hawai'i is paying attention to Maui in relationship to the use of Genasys, our good and bad experiences with the...with the...the technology, and the way it interacts with the public. And so, we're very focused and aware on, you know, understanding where that is because a lot of the agencies, emergency management agencies, are....are waiting for EMS to give a recommendation. What I also want to say is that we're always trying to improve, and it's really important that we...we receive what the community says, and we try and understand what they say. Is it a education piece? Is it a technology piece? Is it an operational piece? Is it an update piece? Is it a location piece? There's a lot of different factors that play into the successful use of Genasys Protect. So, I just kind of want to say that I do agree that there is a need for additional public education, and I'll speak a little bit on that as well as we go through the presentation. So, thank you for the opportunity. I'm going to bypass this video.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is that your kids?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Not mine. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, I just kind of wanted to give a...kind of a brief overview of...it's a review. We've...we've kind of done a similar presentation in the past, but just to kind of bring us all back to the same space. So, the Genasys zones were developed with an all-hazards approach, which means that we are looking at floods, we are looking at fires, we're looking at tsunamis. And it goes through an algorithm initially through Genasys, and it includes population density,

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access and egress, and historical threat. They...they...the zones are produced through that algorithm looking at those three main primary factors. What happens is the...the zones are initially organized, and then local knowledge comes into play. That means as the response partners plug back in, they look at it, they look at the zones, they try and make sense of it, they provide recommendations, and the zones are adjusted. And then what we also added is we added the Ladriz AI integration, which is a software that we had procured that allows us to model traffic. And so, all the zones...let me...let me say that correctly...majority of the zones...all the residential zones are organized to be evacuated within less than 30 minutes of each zone. And so, the zones are developed, and what you see have all of that planning behind it, with science to kind of back it up as well from two different technologies, Genasys Protect and Ladriz AI. And that's the platform that you guys are using via the app. What I also want to say is...a lot of people have talked about it, is Watch Duty. Watch Duty is a wonderful wildfire app, and the Watch Duty uses our Genasys Protect layers to also share information, as well as in our advisories, warnings, and orders, they also follow our messaging as well. And so, there is somewhat of an indirect partnership right there, but I just wanted to let you know that Watch Duty's functionality is also related to our Genasys functionality. It's connected. Some of the, you know, challenges that might happen for our folks trying to navigate through the...the system is the location settings. You...you go into the...the app, you go up into the...the wheel at the top right, and you want to make sure that the app is tracking your location. So, wherever you go, it's going to notify. If you're in a zone and the zone is being impacted, you'll get notified of that impact to that particular zone. And then there's also saving locations. You want to be able to save locations or areas that you want to ensure that you're notified, whether it's mom's house, grandma's house, the school, you would want to...you can save locations. And if you don't save those locations, then you will not get alerts. Related to the evacuation zones, you know, this used to be in the phone books, at least the...the red area, which wasn't colored, was just black and white. Now...now you'll see the red, which represents the evacuation...tsunami evacuation zone. You'll see the yellow, which represents the extreme evacuation zone. And so, once again, this is public education piece. In the Genasys Protect, in all of the tsunami inundation zones, there is an embedded link that will show you the evacuation zone and extreme evacuation zone. So, you will have that map on your phone if you live in the zone, and you can identify, you know, if you're in the regular evacuation zone or the extreme evacuation zone. We were spending a lot of time, and one of the parts...lessons learned is to ensure that the public knew about where this map was. It's not in a phone book anymore. It's on our MEMA website. It's on your Genasys Protect link. It's on your...on your phone. And so, that's a part that, you know, the public was unaware of, and it's a part that we...we can share moving forward. So, some of the lessons learned, you know, we...we...we understand that there needs to be more public education. We're really trying to figure that piece out, and it just requires a lot of resources and time to do and we have...we're working on the plans. And once we get some of our critical positions filled, we'll be able to engage that way. But knowing what a...the zone is...an evacuation zone, what is an extreme evacuation zone, what the trigger of that may be, where the map is, where do I go? Yeah. You know, a lot of...we did an analysis with our Ladriz AI on all of our districts, and for the road network...the road network, as it sits right now for Central Maui, West Maui, and

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South Maui--and we did almost all the zones, but the more problematic ones were Central Maui, South Maui, and West Maui. And in those neighborhoods...those districts, you're looking at two-and-a-half hours, the road network as it sits now, and that's from the evacuation zone to a refuge area outside the evacuation zone. So, not traveling across the island, not traveling to go pick up your kids, but just the local traffic getting from the evacuation zone outside of the inundation zone, that was two-and-a-half hours. So, our...our network is what that is, and then you add on too, people wanting to buy gas, people wanting to go to the store, people wanting to pick up their children, people wanting to go Upcountry...and that, you know, caused grid...gridlock. It's, I guess, typical human behavior, and that's something that we got to work through with education and messaging before and during. And that's something that we can definitely improve on, which is what we're...we're trying to do. Identifying other additional roadways, which came up. We have initial meetings, and working on MOUs to work with private landowners that can open up roads. Some of the tricky part of that is that they require resources as well. And opening of one of the roads in South Maui, you know, it requires...it's a one-way lane. One of the other roads we opened up was...was four-wheel drive, and so we're not going to send our community up those roads, and we need resources to manage...the Police resources or traffic control types of resources to manage those...those points...along with managing the other traffic points, right? And so, looking and working with the Police Department in how we prioritize the coordination of evacuation to include what the network gives us is in an easy place to be, which causes gridlock. And what we're doing is, we are, with the Ladrís AI, we are doing analyses on the different districts, and providing recommendations through those analyses to provide, you know, our Administration an idea of...of where the most critical roads should be opened and...and used, and strategies to potentially use private roads in a better way. That's...that's going on right now. And we don't have a comprehensive report of all of it, and how they all interconnect, but that's part of what we're doing to try and improve evacuation, utilizing our current network. I think on the alerts and warnings side, we used every platform. We use our public siren system. We used EAS, Emergency Alert System. We used our wireless emergency alerts. We use our Genasys Protect. We used our MEMA alerts. We used...we're on radio. We use social media. We use every single platform. There was a comment from a good friend of mine on the Big Island that had said, brah, your guys' messaging was amazing. You guys was...you guys was coming out way faster than we were. You know, Genasys Protect allows us to message a lot quicker. It's...that's...we're...we're the only ones that has that tool in the State of Hawai'i, and we were able to do a pretty good job as far as alerting. I think we can do better in the messaging part of it all, maybe more specific to refuge areas and shelters, and just getting out of the inundation zone. We can do better at that, I agree. But as far as the platform is being used in a cadence that made sense, I would say that it went well. And I have feedback on both ends, meaning it was terrific messaging or terrific cadence, and it was too much cadence...it was too much messaging--dude, you're driving me crazy. And so, you know, it...really trying to receive and understand what the public wants and what the public needs is...is...is always a difficult thing to figure out. So, I definitely appreciate this room and this group to help us facilitate those conversations, and make, you know, inclusive decisions on what we believe is best for our public. We are

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committed to figuring out what that is, and understanding what that is, and make reasonable choices in that regard. And I believe...you know, there's also other ways that we stay informed too. And so, you know, Genasys Protect is one way. Public sirens are...is another way. Radios and TV is another way. I just want to...just want to end with that piece because Genasys Protect is one tool. And I've said this before, and there is not one tool...not any one of these tools stand alone. Not any one of them. They worked hand-in-hand with the others and they overcome various disruptions. And depending on the disruption is what tools we decide to use at the time of, and trying to, once again, do our best to understand what the public...what...what does that mean to the public? And that is a really, really hard thing to really understand. But that is our attempt. And once again, I appreciate all of you, and the opportunity, as you send your...your concerns to me and to my team, and we try to do our best to figure out the best steps moving forward.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. At this time, if Chief Yatsushiro or Deputy Chief Maeda has opening comments, and we can stop the screen share. Have...have the chiefs' cameras and mics been enabled? Okay.

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair, they're unmuted on our end. Oh, I do see Battalion Chief Yatsushiro online --

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. PASCUAL: -- and Deputy Chief Maeda.

CHAIR PALTIN: Chief Yatsushiro, do you want to go first? And then we'll follow up with Chief Maeda...Deputy Chief Maeda?

MR. YATSUSHIRO: Okay. Mic check. Everybody can...can everybody hear? Okay. Aloha kākou. So, I just wanted to thank you guys for allowing us to be here. You know, in the last few months, we've...we've been able to work with MEMA and utilizing the Genasys app. And, you know, along with all of the...you know, the other...like, it's...it's a huge pack...package for public emergency messaging. And I can definitely see the value in what Genasys can provide. And like Chief Amos [*sic*] had mentioned, you know, the...the turnaround to get messaging out with...with Genasys is outstanding. I think, you know, we're...we're...as a Department, we're, you know, still working out some of the...the systemic kind of things to make that...that communication and that overall coordination more seamless with MEMA. But I do see the value in the Genasys app, for sure. And I'll be here to answer any further questions. Thank you for having us.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And Deputy Chief Maeda?

MR. MAEDA: Good afternoon, Chair. Good afternoon, Councilmembers. Hey, Uncle Rylan, how you doing?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .(*laughing*). . .

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MR. MAEDA: You know, MPD, we 100 percent support the Genasys Protect program. We think it's an excellent way to notify the public. So, I'm not sure if the public knows, though, when we...when MPD does evacuations, it's...we can self-generate the evacuation if we see the need for it, although a lot of times we defer to the Fire Department and MEMA in the event of, say, the tsunami, or a fast-moving fire. In those cases, we do the evacuations based on their rec...their recommendations. However, in the event of something wide-scale, like the tsunami, the Genasys Protect program allows the public to be informed so we don't have to evacuate and spend as much time hitting these coastline people...they already know, and start making their way either to higher ground, or to Upcountry, or out of the inundation zone. So, it's...it's a...it's a win-win for the...the citizens of Maui, and it's a way to alert them, and get them out of danger before anything happens. So, yes, we support them 100 percent. We support MEMA. And thank you to the Mayor for, you know, putting an emphasis on staffing MEMA to make them a robust organization, a division. So, we're grateful for that as well. Thank you. And we're...we're here for any questions...I'm here for any questions.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes. Thank you, Deputy Chief Maeda and Chief Yatsushiro. Did anyone want to speak to the coordination of the three entities in open comments, or shall we just save that for questions?

MR. MAEDA: Really...for the MPD, we really don't have any comment. We work...we work well with MEMA and Fire, of course. So, in the field, in the event of...of an incident, we form incident...an incident command with Fire initially, and if the incident...if...so MEMA has their own activation measures, and if the...the...if the event triggers their activation, then they activate the EOC, and then they get involved. And they help us assist with, of course, the Genasys Protect program, getting to...the media out, getting resources, and...and supporting the whole County in general during the emergency time. So, that's...you know, that's...that's our...that's my feeling towards the...the three entities working together. We work well with...with all of them.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Any...anyone else on the coordination between the agencies?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I guess I'll add a couple of things. So, there's a policy that I can share as well, but in short, MEMA...when...when incidents come in, the first thing that...the first wave or line of defense belongs with the Fire Department and the Police Department, for sure. What that means is, as...as that initial incident is evolving in that very early scramble, that we're depending on the threat, Fire and Police will go...go door to...door-to-door and initiate that evacuation. That's the best, fastest way that that takes place. And as we start to organize, and...and we start to formulate unified command, and MEMA and the EOC stands up, and then we start to connect and share information, then a more, you know, maybe complete messaging piece comes out that uses Genasys Protect. It's important to note that if it's an advisory, meaning that we're...in the initial stages, it'll start off at an advisory, most likely. And that means that we know that there's a threat in the area, we're not sure exactly on the impacts

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right now, and so...but we want you...we want you to know that there's something going on in this space. As it moves towards a warning and order, and specifically order, the order piece comes from the unified command, and depends on what the situation may be. MEMA will not initiate an order if the Police and the Fire Department are on scene for a fire and/or active shooter kind of piece. We will defer to them, and you can imagine why we would. We...an evacuation, if the evacuation was unnecessary, could really screw up their operation. And so, we would defer to them in that regard. I think we've all agreed that the advisory, there's nothing wrong with an advisory. The advisories at least get people notified, calms everybody down, and that's how the coordination has worked, and I appreciate the partnership.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Staff, is there any testifiers waiting to testify at this time?

MR. HURDLE: Chair, we don't have any individuals signed up, and I don't see anybody in the audience, so we can do a last call. This is last call for oral testimony. Please come up to the podium or raise your hand on Teams if you would like to testify. The countdown is three, two, one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Members, any objection to closing public testimony and opening...or sorry, accepting written testimony into the record at this time?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY (DRIP-9(5)) . . .**

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Cool. So, we'll open it up for discussion. I'll start off with four minutes per Member again, and we'll go as long as...we...we do have a hard stop at 4:30, so we'll go as long as Members feel the need, up until 4:30. And we'll start again with Committee Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I also have a hard stop at 4:30. Pā'ia School has a open house tonight, so I appreciate that. The tsunami was bananas. Traffic was bananas. I don't think I've seen more people Upcountry in my whole life. The Foodland that I normally go to was bananas. Everyone was panic-buying things, so it makes me panic-buy things. Like I think I still have the dry bananas I bought from that day, thinking it was going to be, you know, life-saving. Luckily, nothing happened, though, right? Like that is best-case scenario, that nothing happened. But it was bananas. Is there a way--like, you know, we have the zones that you just showed, those red and yellow zones--is there a way we can put them like in Highways or someplace, and be like at this point, you are outside of the tsunami zone, so maybe you don't need to go all the way Upcountry. You can if you'd like, you know? Maybe we don't have to panic-buy stuff at Foodland, but you can come if you'd like. But at this point, perhaps you're safe. I don't know what kind of liability that would get us into if we're promising safety, and maybe it's not always if it's a terrible situation, but can we maybe put markers? Like, you know, at this point, you good, or something? Oh, and Genasys, I

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love the app, but you only can have five saved locations. You can have ten? Maybe I got to upgrade it because they just told me five. Because I have three schools that my kids go to, my house, and then Pā'ia. But...okay. Tell me how I can get ten...or I'll make my husband sign up, and we can, in total, have ten or something.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, it used to be five, you're correct.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Used to be five.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And now it was upgraded to ten.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Maybe I got to go update my app then. Okay. Wait, can we...can we put signs?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: We can put signs. Sorry, I'm trying to think about the conversations. So --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Like...

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- because I've been asking around --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- even the State, right? Because I believe the sign program was kind of an old program.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And, you know, as I drive through the...the signs on O'ahu, the...the tsunami zones, does that give me the information that I need related to if I'm good or I'm bad? And wherever...wherever I'm at, does it tell me if I'm good or bad? For me, I think the map is...tells me if I'm good or bad, right? And where...wherever I'm at, if I can click the link, which is in the...which is in the...the Genasys Protect, and it will tell you. The other thing, I had some...some conversations with some of our community members, and they wanted me to send out physical maps, right? Just print physical maps for everybody. And, you know, the...the map is available to you on your phone right now.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: You can screenshot your zone, mom's zone, school zone, any zone, and you can identify what zones you have to worry about. You can identify areas that you typically frequent, and where is the green zone that's not in the red or the yellow. But we still can put signs.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I only ask...

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It's not out of the question, for sure.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Because my grandma has a flip phone, and she refuses to upgrade. So, when it...when it happened...and she refuses to upgrade so much so that we got to special order flip phones. It's...it's a lot. We do it for her. She's been under my mom's plan since she has a phone. As soon as we got the alert, I called her, grandma, there's a tsunami, you got to leave. You got to come to my house. I'm the only one who lives Upcountry. So, they did. And I had cousins . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . from Kīhei. They all came to my house, which...I know they don't have to come that far, but in a panic situation, especially post-Lahaina, we're all on high alert. Like we all have PTSD. So, they all came. But she's...she's maybe going to listen to KPOA, you know. But she doesn't have a...she doesn't have a phone that has Wi-Fi. She can't even take pictures with her phone. Like none of that. And she's so used to seeing those things. And then now she's just like, you know, I was going to go evacuate. I was going Pā'ia Gym, but it's closed, you know. I'm like, grandma, it's been closed long time. So, I'm just thinking about, like how my grandma would receive information versus the difference how I receive information, and how maybe my kids would receive information. Like I have the app, you know, my grandma won't. My kids, maybe. But just...I think in general, especially for like the Kīhei people who may not have the Genasys app, who aren't from here, and they're all trying to come Upcountry. I've never heard more foreign languages spoken in Foodland Upcountry than that very day.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: You know, I...I do think, I wrote down a note that this is a different day.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And trying to find way...a pathway in this different day is what we're searching for. And everybody's way more aware, way more concerned, and maybe doing way more than they need to. Which you know, takes me back to public education--using the app, finding ways to have a map on scene...or with you, for grandma...and really finding those solutions. I have been talking to different agencies related to the signage, and I've gotten mixed results on what they believe is...you know, is a success. I like the signage area...the signage idea. I...once again, I often drive by and, you know, it's still kind of unclear. Like, it's not every road has a sign, you're out of the inundation area. And, you know, the inundation area goes like this. So, just because I'm lined up with you, that doesn't mean you're out of the inundation zone, and I may be. So, that's...those signage becomes kind of difficult to really put in its place because it's not a straight line. And... *(pause)* yeah.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I appreciate that.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

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VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thanks for talking that out with me. Thank you, Chair. I heard my bell a long time ago.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I guess my small comment would be that it comes down to preparation, everything. You know, if...if you have those posted on the wall, maybe at your grandma’s house, knowing about like that specific situation, everything would come down to preparation. But Member Cook, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, I remember--maybe I show my age--Civil Defense taking over the radio in times of crisis, every radio station, you know, we’re going . . . *(inaudible)*. . . we’re going to tell everybody. A lot of the radio stations I understand now are remote, and they don’t have DJs there and stuff. Is that Civil Defense radio connection still in existence?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, if the question is, do we have the capability, our EOC...out of our EOC, no. We are definitely investigating that for the new EOC. There are, I want to say, 19 radio stations that we partner with, and you can look at those radio stations on our MEMA website, on where that information via EAS will live. We are working with partnership too, to have messaging go to a radio station. One of the challenges with that one is redundant power...not having redundant power. So, trying to support redundant power to that group that allows disaster messaging to come out, and have just another opportunity to send out that information is what we’re working on.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, thanks. I mean, I think it just sort of reinforces the challenges...or clarifies the challenges you’re dealing with. It’s a different world we live in. We have multiple ways of communicating, but we don’t have like a single way to communicate. Yeah, public education. I mean, when I was in Kihei during the tsunami, and my daughter’s calling from the mainland, going, Dad, you can go to my house in Makawao, and I’m like nah, I’m good, about 100 feet, you know. And pretty much...but it’s not...like you said, it’s not a straight line. The Pi’ilani Highway from Wailea all the way to the Tesoro station in North Kihei is all mauka, but the main intersection by what used to be Monsanto and now is Bayer, that whole intersection is in the major tsunami. So, anyway, supportive of what you’re doing. I think you guys are really covering all the bases. Any way we can help, we will. So...but I just...I just remember being a kid, it’s like Civil Defense. You’re going to dial in, you’re going to listen. It’s like...it’s not that simple anymore. Thanks.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: To that point, I mean, we can do better in how we connect with radio broadcasts, for sure, and we are...we’re...we’re trying to.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, I think you don’t have the radio broadcast network that you used to. That’s the thing, I mean, that whole system, that whole thing is not like it used to be. So, thanks.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. Aloha, everyone. Mahalo for being with us for the second item. Nice to see you all. Okay. I'm sorry if this is already said or asked. I...I couldn't really hear you, Member Cook. So, I love Genasys. I think it's great. What are the efforts you're taking to get more people to sign up, or to download the app?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, we are in the airports for our visitors. We are in the schools...not all schools, but we've made our way through two. The schools...we're doing presentations in...for like the elderly, kūpuna, Hale Mahaolu facilities. We have been participating in many community events, where we'll have sign-ups for Genasys Protect and MEMA alerts in the back. I have a list of all of those events that we participate in. We don't have currently a way to track the...the number of subscribers, which is a big problem. We are trying to...you know, we're requesting that capability. They're working on it, but at this particular time, the numbers appear skewed, and they're trying to find ways to improve. But we've been putting a lot of energy in Genasys Protect. It's the fastest communication for us, and we want to be able to maximize the use of it, and it depends on the people that sign up for it. We're also on the Spectrum [sic] as well, and the social media campaigns, as well as the radio. We've...we've been reaching out as much as we can to every platform, but don't know what the success looks like in the form of subscribers at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that information. I...I also signed up for the text messages, and sometimes I get the text messages that say Genasys on it too. Are you able to track the text...the phone numbers that sign up?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I am not sure. I would have to go find that out.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I actually don't remember how I signed up for the texting. I just...I...I just did. I don't remember, sorry. And then, Chair, just for Sunshine Law disclosure, both my children are...are home. My teenagers, they're home now. So, if you see bodies walking past me. Okay. And then...shoot. Oh, to get the word out, have you folks discussed doing like a Countywide mailer?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I have not. Not yet, at least. That's a great idea.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then, you know, budget's...budget's going to be coming up again real soon, so we can get that into the budget. Because I think it's like \$60,000 for a mailer, or something like that.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, I just wanted to clarify. When you said Countywide mailers, you mean like on the water bill, or the...like...like that, or electric bill, like we had that Save Our Seabirds insert...like is that what you mean? Or just like a specific individual mailer?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, can...can do multiple. Can do like the water bill, but not everyone has County water, so they won't get it. They could do like RPT,

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but I...I don't know if they want to put more information on the real property tax notice that everyone gets. And not everyone gets the real property tax because not everyone owns their home. So, the renters wouldn't get that. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, in order to get it to all the mailboxes, I would think that they would...you know, MEMA could do like a postcard with like a link and a QR code or something, where it takes you directly to the app store or...you know, regardless of what kind of phone you have, Android, iPhone, whatever. And then, you know, you can upload the app, and sign up for the text message if, you know, your...your phone is not a smartphone. And then also...you know, so you can sign up for the texts and the calls...because I also get calls. I sign up for all the things. So, I also get the voicemails and the calls. And I'd rather, you know, be bothered more and like know for sure what's going on in case there's a threat than to not get the message. So, I'd rather get more messages than no messages, so... And I did hear the...the timer. So, I'll save my next question for round two. But...oh, but if you wanted to respond or anything, or provide any other feedback, I'm open to that as well.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I guess I wanted to clarify, I believe the...the texting part was coming through MEMA alerts versus the Genasys Protect. And we do have a way to track the subscribers off of MEMA alerts.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Yeah, because I get the MEMA alerts and Genasys alerts. Yeah, I think they're different numbers, that's why. Anyway, whatever it is, I get them.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's working, it's working.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- next opportunity, Member Sugimura, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I'm lucky in that--was it last week--the MEMA came and presented to the Kula Community Association. And it was a request from the community because of the tsunami. And so, I mean, they were fabulous, and even met with them before the community meeting because they wanted to be sure that they got all the questions that had come up, right, then. And so, I want to...I want to commend the improvements that I've seen, and attention to detail, and making sure that you get the job done. What I didn't know, that I learned...because we were getting concerns from people in South Maui that wanted to go up the Oprah Winfrey road, and wanted to know why they couldn't, and what...whatever the rules were. And then Ulupalakua Ranch wanted to open up their roads. And I've learned a lot about what is real, and what is the impression from the community. And you can talk about it, but...I mean, safety is always primary. And who controls what happens? I always thought...immediately, I think everything is you, MEMA. But incident control, is that what you call it? It really depends on what...

CHAIR PALTIN: Incident command.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Incident command. It really depends on what the emergency is, right? As you were talking about with Police and Fire. So, you can talk about that. And I appreciate also that based upon the meeting that we had with you, my office had with you, you have reached out to the Upcountry landowners that do control the roads, and different situations that can add to a safer evacuation if that's what is needed. And I will stop there, but I...I want to offer my office to any help that you may need to do your education for Upcountry. Because I think that's what I learned from that meeting that you did with us at Kula Community Association. I really, really...Kula and Pukalani, really appreciate that. So, you can add to...whatever you want to say.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. Yeah. You know, we always learning as well, and we don't think that we know everything, and we take everything into consideration. And part of it was to identify the exact usage of these roads, or these private roads, or private lands. And so, we...we're making an effort to connect with these entities. We had our first meeting already with Mahi Pono, Haleakala Ranch, and Ulupalakua Ranch, as well as some State land, DLNR State lands, to identify...first, we have to identify all the roads, and then inspect the roads to make sure that they're safe enough to travel...because we did identify, you know, some of them, you need four-wheel drive, some of them were one-way, and which way is going to be the important way, right? Is it everybody go up, or everybody come down? And so, you know, we're...we're making efforts in...in that movement. You know, there's liability, there's policing those areas...because once we let people on land, now the private owners basically have the liability on them. So, you know, maybe we have to put in some hold harmless agreements, or something in place. So, the committee that we...we put together is a good one. Like I said, we only had one meeting so far, but the efforts are...are all for the safety of our community. All the landowners are really into providing, you know, their resource for the community, and that is really nice to see. Regarding the incident command component, you know, you'll hear...hear MEMA say that we are not in command, which we're not. We're...we're in a support function, and we cannot possibly be in command from the basement of this building. . . .(timer sounds). . . You have to be on scene, seeing what's happening, for...for that to work. And so, having that information pushed back to us at the EOC in a timely manner and accurate is the best way that we can function. We...we push out information, we help support strategically, and it all is dependent on the information that comes in. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Kama, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I have a question, Director. Do you folks have a tutorial? You know, because when you go onto the app, right? I mean, so we go into the app, and it tells you to do this and to do that, but there's nobody to...well, if you have a question, you're asking yourself, oh, where do I go from here to there, and what does that mean, and to do this? I mean, but do you all have a tutorial that tells you how to and what to, besides just what's on the app?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: We do.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I believe the tutorial is actually on our MEMA website, so you can go to --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- ...*(inaudible)*... website, and look up the Genasys Know Your Zone, I believe, on the left side, and you can click on it. It has a tutorial on how to. You know, that might...the easiest thing might be just call (808) 270-7285 and ask one of our staff members to walk you through it. You know, I know a lot of people have different challenges with that, and that's available as well. So, you can find the tutorial on the MEMA website, and you can just call us direct, and one of our staff can walk you through it.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. I like that. I appreciate that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. For my opportunity, a couple of things. I have both the Watch Duty and the Genasys, and the thing that I like about the Watch Duty is, even if my silent...my phone is on silent, it'll make a noise if there's a fire. Does Genasys have that capability? It's not like an obtrusive noise, it's like, oh, there's a fire kind of thing. And I didn't...so I...the only way I know that there's a fire if I'm doing something else and not staring at my phone usually is from the Watch Duty app. Is-- Genasys have that same type of capability, to make kind of an unobtrusive noise to let you know?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, if I'm understanding the question correctly, as far as the unobtrusive noise, the...that is selected by you in the way you receive the notifications. I have a...

CHAIR PALTIN: So, got to go to settings or something?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I believe so.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I know my noise is really nice. I think others, not so much, and I think...I mean, it's...it's based on what you decide your noise to be related to what app you're using, or your total messaging. But that...that actually came up too, by a couple of community members, where they said, you know, you got this real loud sound, and it was...

CHAIR PALTIN: Like that's what you chose.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That...that...I said, I believe that's what you chose. You can change that sound if...if you're talking specifically about Genasys. If you're talking about the WEA, the WEA will have a loud sound. That's its function, it's to notify you in an intrusive way for the alert. And I believe she was talking about Genasys Protect, and so she went to look at her...her notification settings.

CHAIR PALTIN: And then the other thing that I noticed about Genasys Protect, both for the tsunami warning and the Kā'anapali fire, and I kind of was talking it through with Ms. Stewart (*phonetic*). The next day, after the tsunami warning was lifted, or after the fire evacuation was lifted, as I drive through that zone, then Genasys Protect lets me know, oh, evacuation order was lifted. And I didn't realize that it was giving me that alert because I was driving through the zone that had an evacuation order. And so, it kind of freaked me personally out. Like was I supposed to have evacuated, and I'm getting the notification late? But because I walked through it with her, it's like, oh, the next day I drove through this zone that had previously had an evacuation order, and now it's telling me that the evacuation order has been lifted. So, it was a little tiny bit confusing. I'm not sure why the next day it would tell me that the evacuation order was lifted because I wasn't in an evacuation zone at the time the evacuation zone was. And I can figure that out after it was explained to me, but I just imagine maybe kūpuna, or people...other people, like, holy cow, you know, whatever. Is that necessary? Is that also a part of our settings that we can select or deselect?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes. So, it sounds like you do have it following you...your location. So, as you drove through a zone, because it follows your location, it would have given you a notification of that zone. Part of...to my knowledge, on that specific issue, it was related to opening up your messages and checking the messages. So, it...basically, it's giving you a message because you never opened the original one, meaning not specifically the order lifted, but to other messages that you're receiving via Genasys. And so, it would prompt you. That concern went up to Genasys Protect to get resolved as well. And hopefully that's been resolved, but the...the Genasys Protect company does know that we should not be getting any kind of notifications out of the zone, especially when the evacuation has been lifted. And I believe that's been resolved.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay. Because it...it only gave me the alert, I think. We had to figure it out, but it only gave me the alert when I drove through that zone. So, I was at my house, which isn't in the evacuation zone. And then the next day, I was driving to work or something, and as soon as I got to the zone, it sent a little like ding-a-ling, and I'm like, evacuation lifted? Like, what, was I supposed to evacuate? So, it was a little confusing. But if that's been told to them, that would be great. I did...so, for the Genasys Protect app, if someone doesn't have a computer or a smartphone, their best option is to tune into the radio; is that correct?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then...so, for the...the Kā'anapali fire, I wasn't affected or involved. My daughter wanted to go to a sleepover in Kā'anapali, so that was canceled. But I was wondering, the evacuation...I know the Fire Department is going to see whether it's going or not going, and evac...doing spot evacuations. But also, because they were dipping the...the fire helicopter into the ocean, they need to shut the road, per FAA, if they're carrying water over the highway like that. How would that work out...if you're shutting the road, but you need people to evacuate, the logistics on that? And then, like I did text you to open one of the gates. Is that as a private gate gets opened, then you establish the MOU, or are we looking at all the private gates and saying, like let's establish the MOU ASAP as we go along?

MR. DAVIS: Yeah, so...can you hear me? Thank you, Chair, for that question. So, we have another committee in Lahaina that includes all the response agencies--Parks Department . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and some other entities in Lahaina--to identify all the gates...gated areas, which includes the cane haul roads, gated communities, as well as Parks' gates, and identify the entities that are responsible for opening them. And then, of course, you know that if we need to open something, the Fire Department can, but it's going to be forced. We're trying to get away from forcing things, so people don't have to fix their gates. But for that area, we did work through protocols to open up the Kā'anapali Golf Estates gated community to let people around, circumvent the...the road closures because of the...the water drops that was going over the ocean. We also, you know, sometimes overlook the impacts of smoke, and the hotels, KOR, self-evacuated themselves because of the smoke inundation. And so, you know, the information is...is really good when we...when we get that into the EOC so we can have a common operating picture of what's happening on scene. So, identifying those road closures, alternate routes for evacuation, as well as if there is identification of self-evacuation, like a whole hotel, that's a big deal. So, there is this group, this cadre, that is put together by...initiated by MPD in Lahaina, which is going to identify all these gated areas and access roads to do a complete evacuation identification of Lahaina. I think it'll be the...the role model for the rest of the communities on Maui County. Does that answer your question?

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, thank you. I think that's great to be proactive like that. Did my bell ring? Oh, okay. Member Johnson, I'm sorry, I didn't see you when I was going down the line. Your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Okay. A lot of my questions I had written down were already answered, but I'll just jump right into it. But first off, you know, information is comfort food during a time of crisis. That's...I've always really learned...learned that moving forward, but we've just got to give them a lot of information, load them up, it's better...you know, more is better than less. I think of the messaging, the...of course, it can be better, and I really appreciate that slide, Administrator, about lessons learned. Because I tell you, there's...there should have been a lot of lessons learned post-fire, and the evacuation on the tsunami. And then just to remind everybody out there that we have Hurricane Kiko coming pretty soon. Is

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it going to miss us? I hope so. But again, it goes back to that, let's load them up with a lot of information, let's prepare them. So, basically, I...I have some questions about like...you know, ho...honing the knife, right? We have this...this software that supposedly everyone that I'm hearing is really...they really like it, but we don't have the data to know how many people signed up for it. That's interesting to me because, you know, usually, on something like this, it's real easy to gather the data, hone your knife, make it better, and then really kind of get the people the information they need. But we don't...according to you, we don't even know how many people sign up for it. So, that's concerning for me. And if it's a software thing, let's get them on board. Because we have to gather the data, right, to...to do better? The...the other question is in regards to the gates being taken down in the time of emergency. And I know we don't want to break the gates, but in a time of emergency, sometimes you got to do it. And I just want to make sure that if we do that, then are we responsible for paying them back or fixing them? It's something, of course, we...we want to help...if they're going to help us, we want to help them. We don't want to just leave a broken gate. So, those are some of my questions right now, if you feel like tackling any of those.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: One of the first things I wanted to say towards the lessons learned is currently, we are engaged in an after-action report. I actually went to a third party to do it for us, simply because, you know, our workload is slammed, as well as we wanted an outside perspective to manage the information and not have, you know, it, you know, jaded in any way from our input. So, interviews have been taking place with various groups. I'm not sure if it's absolutely completed, but I believe middle of September, end of September, is when we expect to get the final report. I...I missed your other question, sorry, but I just wanted...I was stuck on after-action.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure. Well, that's good to hear. I just want...am curious if, you know, if we do knock down a gate, and what's the process? Are we paying for that gate? Do we, you know, write them a check, or do Public Works come out and actually do...fix the...that's what I'm curious about.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes. I guess I want to say is that hopefully we don't have to knock down gates simply because we do well in coordination, and we build on our partnerships. I am not --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- certain about what...who would actually be responsible the gate. I guess it would be with us, but hopefully we do a good enough job where we don't have to knock down gates.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I...I concur with that statement, thank you. The...the...I know I'm limited on time here, so the idea that, you know, we're giving out information to...to folks as soon as...as much as we can, load them up. Do we have contacts with, like, the online social media, for example, Maui 24/7, or Maui News Now, or whatever? Do you guys have a direct link to say, hey, this is what's happening? Is that something

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you do, or do you do a massive press release? Because those...I find that some of that social media is pretty...it's faster than the...you know, Channel 6 News, or whatever. . . .(inaudible). . .

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, I appreciate that question. I think MEMA, as far as social media, has been doing terrific. Our public information officer within our agency is pushing a lot of great information out there. I believe we have some meetings set up with 24/7 and...and Watch Duty to just exchange ideas and thoughts on how information can be shared. You know, what might cause us to delay--and I've said this in the past--is what might cause us to delay is we want to ensure that the information that we're sharing is accurate, and that'll take some time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: At times, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- not really . . .(timer sounds). . . being held accountable to general areas versus specific areas is not our situation. Our situation is specific areas with accurate information always, never failing, which, you know, delays how we gather that information, and how we...we...we send it out. But looking to always improve, and partnerships that make sense for the community is what we're always engaging. Like I said, we...I believe we have a meeting set up with 24/7 and...Maui 24/7 and Watch Duty.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for your response. I heard the bell. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Round two, we can do by raise of hands. Let's see. Okay. I did have one other one...or one other question at least, might be for Chief Yatsushiro. In the week of the Kā'anapali fire, after the fact, I realized there was spot evacuations going on. And then, of course, on social media, you have people all not in the area commenting about things. And then there were some people...like right after the evacuation order went out, the fire was contained or something. Is there any messaging--and this might be for MEMA as well, or the Police--but is there any messaging related to our kūpuna or ADA folks about like when an evacuation order is given, maybe you want to prepare before that. Like because the fire in Kā'anapali was going on for quite some time, and then there was an evacuation order given, whereas people that need extra time because of disability, or age, or whatever reason, maybe they should have gone earlier. So, either Chief Yatsushiro or anyone else, is there any kind of messaging or prep? Like evacuation is...obviously for a fire would be based on the incident commander or the Fire Department, but is there separate messaging for our kūpuna or disabled folks about, you know, different evacuation times than for the general population?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Chief, if you mind [*sic*], I'll...I'll start off, and then you can follow up. So...so, we...we have been engaging the kūpuna communities...not all of them, but we have been. We do advise early, and we want people to get that information and start preparing. Our message reflects that. If you need extra time, go now, even though when in an advisory. I think for the Kā'anapali fire, what makes that one a little tricky is that the winds were variable, and what was crossing the road in one minute wasn't crossing the road in the next. So, what was hitting the residential areas wasn't hitting the residential areas in the next minute. Initial evacuations--and Fire and Police can correct me if I'm wrong--Police on the ground in the...the very initial operation was already evacuating the commercial buildings. Fire was impacting that particular area. And so, what we did, as MEMA in our function, is to try and gather information as much as possible and put people on advisory. That gives us the best chance...the people the best chance to look out their window, and make any kind of...take any kind of actions that they need is appropriate for them. As we're gathering information, as it moved into order...I guess I can turn it over to Chief Yatsushiro related to how that worked. I just would like to say that that particular one, because of the variable...the variability of the wind and, you know, where it was going, it just presented a different complexity to where we were messaging, and who was on warning, and who was on order at whatever period of time.

CHAIR PALTIN: Chief, did you . . . (*timer sounds*) . . . have anything you wanted to add?

MR. YATSUSHIRO: Yeah, I can hop on top...on that as well. Yeah. So, you know, like, I was actually in the EOC as well. And so, you know, we're...we're...you know, from the EOC, you know, the best...the best action we can take is based on the best information we can get from the field. And so, sometimes...you know, at times, it's...it's super difficult. Like...like Chief Amos said, in that situation, we had a lot of variables going on. And, you know, sometimes that...that coordination is tough. But as I recall, you know, we...we...those advisories, and the areas of those advisories, as well as the orders, you know, they were placed with the best intelligence that we...we could gather from the field. And so, you know, just took it and...and went from there. You know, and...and...and, you know, sometimes it's a situation where should we or shouldn't we, and we're always going to err on the safe side as well, yeah. So, I guess that--that's that.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And...and I also did want to clarify. For that kind of thing, like Kā'anapali...it's the middle of the day, it was over before nightfall. We're not going to be opening up like evacuation centers until like nightfall, right, or until it becomes a prolonged event? Because people can just go to like someplace outside of the evacuation area, or go to like a public place, like a mall, or a library, or something, right? We're not going to open up evacuation centers until nightfall, or is that incorrect?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, we're going to open up a shelter if we believe the people that are evacuated won't be able to return to their home, and they'll need a place to go. As far as...we...we...we expect and encourage the community to go with...with a go bag, which has some form of sustenance for them to sustain if the emergency extends or

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prolongs to the morning hours, and we start to...we start to organize meals to support the shelter. Once again, this is a different day, I would say, meaning that the fire...the fire is small. It's...it's...it's a smaller fire. It's something that, you know, the commanders feel comfortable with getting around. Once the smoke impacts subside and the threat is minimal, people can go back to their homes...and that was the expectation, I guess...that was the plan. There's always going to be smokers that extend into the next days where it's, you know, piles of rubbish underneath that will still smoke, but not necessarily a threat to the community. And so, I hope I answered your question related to shelters.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes. I did hear my bell. So, any further questions? We have Police, Fire, and MEMA, and this is a 7(B) presentation on Genasys Protect evacuation app. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I really don't have a question, but I want to say thank you to all of you because I believe what has happened since August 8th of 2023 is, we all got educated about emergencies and the severity of it. As...as you can see, you know, it went...every...everything happened. And I just want to say thank you for stepping into the seat and...and taking us forward for MEMA. And Fire and Police, you...you guys are amazing, and I don't think we thank you enough, but we rely on you a lot, and things are just supposed to be smooth, you know. Even during emergency, we ask all kind...well, I was asking all kind of questions, only to learn that a lot more needed to happen and get involved, so that's what I'm doing. And thank you for allowing my community, you know, the privilege of having you do your presentations and educating us, and please come back and help us do more. I appreciate this paper that you gave me for the community safety plan that you're working on with the Upcountry landowners, and we're going to get all the questions that everybody's asking is going to come out of this, so thanks for digging deeper and appreciate it a lot. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: I did want to give you an opportunity to say that phone number again if people had needed to be walked through setting up the Genasys Protect app, just for the general public.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: (808) 270-7285.

CHAIR PALTIN: (808) 270-7285.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes.

CHAIR PALTIN: 270-7285. If you need assistance with your settings, walk you through the Genasys Protect app, that's extension 7285. And then in regards to the upcoming Hurricane Kiko that last I heard was a Category 4, if anybody wants to mention preparations in their...as part of their closing remarks, and you guys can decide what order you want to go in. *(pause)* I guess MEMA first, and then Fire, and then Police.

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, you know, I...I say this a lot, and it...for us to overcome disasters, emergency incidents that affect our community, it requires all of us. And I encourage the community and the public to...to start to do personal preparedness actions, communicate with their family, look at go bags and communication plans, evacuation areas, meeting points...all of those things are going to be necessary. In disaster, it keeps people off the roads, keeps people in safe places, and it connects families, so the emergency is not as big of an emergency. I think that...you know, we're trying to do our best to support the collective protection of the community, but we're not enough, and I just encourage everybody to talk to their families, to prepare, download Genasys Protect, download Keep Alerts, be informed. Whatever gaps you have in your situations at home, do your best to protect yourselves or fill those gaps. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Any...any specific tips or tricks? Like in...in my household, we...we fill the gallon jugs of water just in case the power goes out and the wells stop working so we can still like flush the toilet, or give water to the dogs and stuff. Like it's better than braving the crowds and trying to get bottled water, or something. Any...any tips or tricks...your favorite tip or trick you want to share with us?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Water is always a big deal after the 2023 fires. As a volunteer, the most requested resource was bottled water and ice. So, anything to preserve, and conserve, and store water to help with, you know, basic functions of the families is what I would recommend.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Chief Yatsushiro, any closing remarks? Anything about the hurricane, or tips or tricks in your household, or that you wanted to share?

MR. YATSUSHIRO: Yeah. I guess, just...you know, just...just hopping on what Chief Amos said. You know, I think the preparation for...for all our 'ohanas is...is super critical. And, you know, for...for my family, we...you know, like...you know, in the past storm we've had, you know, I got to go into work, and so, you know, we've...we've...we've...typically, we pretty systematically talked about, you know, where everybody's going to go, and how we're going to communicate, who's going to go get grandpa, who's going to get grandma, and...and, you know, kind of coordinate those things ahead of time. And...yeah. So, you know, I'd like everybody to pay close attention to the information provided by, you know, our reliable sources--National Weather Service and...and, of course, MEMA. You know, they...they...they do put a lot of hard work into the coordinated messaging, and I believe we...you know, they...they will alert us with whatever we need to know.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I'm not sure if Deputy Chief Maeda is still on the line. Any closing remarks, or tips or tricks, if you are there?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He said he was having some...

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CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, technical issues. Did the Members want to share any tips or tricks they have in getting prepared? No? No tips or tricks? All righty then. Let's see. If there are no objections, the Chair will defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion** (excused: GJ, AL, SS)

CHAIR PALTIN: This concludes today's Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee meeting. Thank you very much, everyone. I'm giving you an hour and four minutes extra to your day. The time is now 3:26, and this meeting is adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 3:26 p.m.

drip:min:250903:crp:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 37 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 6th day of October 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



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Daniel Schoenbeck