

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

February 16, 2024

Online Only via TEAMS

CONVENE: 2:43 p.m.

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

EXCUSED: Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

STAFF: Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst
David Raatz, Director, Office of Council Services
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Nalani Fujihara, Hawaiian Language Communications
Specialist

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka‘i Residency Area
Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency
Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area
Office

Angela Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Paltin
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Kama

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Haunani Madela, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez
Jared Agtunong, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Cook
Jocelyn Moniz, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Sugimura
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Johnson
Keomailani Hirata, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez
Michele McLean, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Lee
Nayleen Kamai, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Kama
Noelani Ahia, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez
Stacy Takahashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Cook
Susan Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
U'u-Hodgins

ADMIN.: Victoria J. Takayesu, Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Mimi Desjardins, First Deputy Corporation Counsel,
Department of the Corporation Counsel
Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel,
Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Jasee Law
Foster Ampong
Plus (4) other people

PRESS: *Akaku Maui Community Television, Inc.*

**GREAT-5(3) PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND
COMMISSIONS (Rule 7(B))**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . . *(gavel)*. . . . *(no audio)*. . . please come to order. It is 2:43
p.m., and I'm your Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. Members, in accordance with
the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle,

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Let's begin with Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin. Good afternoon.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā and ni hao kung hei fat choi.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Ni hao. Councilmember Tom Cook, ni hao.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Ni hao. Aloha Friday.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, let's put extra aloha in this Friday. Councilmember Gabe Johnson, ni hao. Is he with us today? Can you guys see him? Okay. He's excused. Councilmember Tasha Kama is also excused. Council Chair Alice Lee, ni hao.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Ni hao to you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, ni hao.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair. Ni hao and kung hei fat choi. And we have no testifiers currently at the Moloka'i District Office.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Councilmember Shane Sinenci. Ni hao.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha and ni hao. I'm here at my home office, and I'm here by myself, and no testifiers in Hāna, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: And Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, ni hao.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Ni hao and I still have the Great Wall of China. I'm visiting China, and look how beautiful that picture is.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: It is. Very beautiful. Okay. From Corporation Counsel, we have Mimi DesJardins, First Deputy Corporation Counsel, and Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel. Our Committee Staff includes Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary; Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst; Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst; Richard E. Mitchell, Legislative Attorney; and Jean Pokipala, County...Council Services Assistant Clerk. Do we have any testifiers? Oh, and Ms. Yamashita we have as well. You are not listed, but hello. Do we have any testifiers? If so, I'll go into the whole thing.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, yes. We have one testifier.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay, one second. I'm doing this for you, so don't go ha. Testifiers, wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the lobby, join on the

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

online meeting via Teams link or call into the phone number noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise your hand button. For those calling in, please follow the prompts via phone. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call your name...the name you are logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At that time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and if you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Once you are done testifying or you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take up each person in an orderly fashion and we will now call on our first testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. So Mr. Law, please join us at the podium.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the first and only individual signed up to testify is Braddah Man.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. LAW: Aloha ala kea.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, Braddah Man. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. LAW: The Hawaiian word of the day is from Google is ka ho'omaopopo 'ana. To understand.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Ka ho'omaopopo 'ana.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Members, any clarifying questions? Seeing none. Let's continue.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, that was the only individual signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a final call?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please do.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

MS. MACDONALD: If anybody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call. Three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

**GREAT-5(3): PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS,
COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS** (Rule 7(B))

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Well, let’s begin with our agenda. The item before us today is GREAT-5(3), which under Rule 7(B), of Rules of the Council will allow us to discuss matters relating to the procedures for nominations to boards, commissions...committees and commissions under the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, including procedures relating to filling vacancies for members whose terms expire on March 31st, 2024, commonly referred to as mass nominations. As you will see, via the correspondence link to the agenda, the Mayor’s nominees were received 59 days prior to the expiration of the current member’s terms. However, the Charter requires the Council receive the nominations at least 60 days prior. That said, it is now under the Council’s purview to nominate and appoint members for these mass nominations seats, as well as a few other vacant...vacant Council appointee seats. The purpose of today’s meeting is to discuss a process moving forward and how we would like to consider or collect the nominees’ names, et cetera. So before we go into discussion, can we please do a last call for testimony on this item GREAT-5(3)?

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. There is currently no one who is signed up to testify. If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call. Three...oh --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We have somebody in the participants.

MS. MACDONALD: It appears that we have somebody. Yeah. Foster Ampong, we’re just going to enable your mic and camera so you can begin your testimony. Foster, you’ve been enabled on our side if you’d like to begin your testimony.

MR. AMPONG: Aloha. Can the Council hear me?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We can.

MR. AMPONG: Aloha. Thank you for allowing me to testify. What I’d like to testify regarding the process for the reappointment and nominations, I’d like to remind

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

the Council that last year on March 24th, 2023, my wife and I came to the County Council and we testified against a nominee for the Cultural Resource Committee. The issues that we raised was serious issues. It was about integrity and credibility. Now this individual was voted in and appointed on the CRC. And because of the wildfire of August 8th and what Lāhainā has been going through prior to the wildfire and after now in the recovery, I think it's imperative that the Council keep in mind when they look at the nominations and the reappointment, that the candidates, the nominees have integrity and have the credibility to represent, you know, Lāhainā, to represent Maui, the County. Yeah, both culturally, as well as within the community. Now, I don't want to get into the details. I did that last year. I submitted testimony, audio recordings, video recordings, making my...substantiating my testimony. So this time around what I want to express to the Council is that I still stand by that testimony I made a year ago. In fact, the one thing that I'd like the Council to look into is that if someone is sitting, you know, on a board and a commission representing the County of Maui, and that individual sues the County, and in this case because of the wildfire, is that not going to conflict with his duties and responsibilities, especially in the rebuilding process of Lāhainā? Because not only is the town of Lāhainā needs to be rebuilt and people, you know...my family, many of your families and friends that have suffered from the wildfire, you know, a lot of folks are hurting. And so I think it's really important that the nominee meets up to...at least have the credibility and the support and the integrity to carry out his duties. And you know, if he's suing the County, I don't see how that's going to fit or that's going to work, you know, on this Board and Commission. I'm sorry, normally I try to collect myself and be a lot more articulate, but this is very emotional, you know, especially what happened to Lāhainā. Thank you. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Mr. Ampong. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Staff, do we have any other testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there is currently no one else who is signed up to testify. If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know or Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call. Three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members, seeing there are no individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objection.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Okay. So to begin this conversation, I will start with my recommendation to this Committee and this Council is to initiate an open application process. Wait, hold on. Can we turn down the volume? It’s a bit too loud. Thank you. Okay. I’ll restart. My recommendation is to initiate an open application process for all Maui County residents so that we are being fair to everyone for every seat and doing our due diligence to find the best candidate for our boards, committees, and commissions. Staff has prepared a draft application, which was uploaded to Granicus and will be emailed to all of you. Staff has also prepared a draft press release that will go out as soon as this meeting adjourns, if...assuming this is the route we take. Under this plan we would receive applications until the 29th, post resolutions with all the applicants’ names and as nominees in the Council-initiated resolutions, and interview and discuss the nominees during our March 12th meeting. For example, every applicant that expresses interest in being, let’s say, considered for the Board of Ethics will be listed as nominees on Exhibit A on that resolution, and we will consider placing names on Exhibit B...I’m sorry, for appointment. These are my recommendations, but we agendized the item so that we could have a discussion. Because I’m happy to hear whatever you guys think might work best and whatever plan we can to move forward. I will remind you all though that we do have a timeline. Let’s discuss. Member Sugimura...oh, I’m sorry. Member Sugimura, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. So basically what you’re saying is February...February 29th is open enrollment basically. We’re looking for nominees for every single board and commission?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: If you look at the thing...the application...I’m sorry. I shouldn’t say thing. I’ll be specific. The application...yeah. If you look at this situation we have on hand, it will show you the application. The application has six boards and commissions they can list as their preference, and in the back on the last seat, you will see all the open seats there are available. And so not necessarily open enrollment, but open application process.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So and I guess then, on the...and then March 12th we’re going to discuss all the nominees?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: For our applicants?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: For these positions?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And so what happens to everybody that applied with the Mayor?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Administration didn’t meet their deadline.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Right.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: So the Council now is initiating our own process.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Right. So were we going to consider any of them or --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: You can if you like. If you’d like to reach out to them, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I guess it’s not our responsibility to tell them that they didn’t...whatever this process is.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: They’re aware.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: It’s probably the Mayor that should tell them, yeah?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: They’re aware.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: So if you would like to reach out to the Mayor’s nominees and see if they are happy to reapply under the Council’s process, you’re welcome to do so.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I think your proposal is great.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just like your Committee. And . . . *(laughing)*. . . I know.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Let’s keep it consistent, right?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Happy Friday. Will you go over the timeline for us again?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Sure. Okay. So under this plan, the meeting...after we adjourn, our...we will have this application good to go. The applications are due on the 29th.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: At 12:00 noon?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: To GREAT Committee?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes. Yeah, we are going to have them send it over to the GREAT Committee, or take them in to any of the residency’s office, right?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: So this is one thing we wanted to get input in from the Members, because our typical process in the past, I mean and we haven’t done this in a while, is to allow them to email it to the GREAT Committee, fax it, or drop it off at the County building, or any of the residency area offices. So we just wanted to make sure that everyone is okay with that plan, because then that would make the residency area offices or Councilmembers responsible for bringing in those applications.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objections.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And then we’ll hui up all those applications and put them on one Council generated resolution. And then on the March 12th meeting of this Committee, we will then discuss all of the people who have applied for the various boards and commissions.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So the deadline is February 29th.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then posting will be the 6th?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then we'll take up all the nominees at the March 12th.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you anticipate needing a recess meeting time?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's a really good question. It depends on how many questions we all decide to collectively ask the applicants. Which, you know, some people have a lot of questions and some people don't. So I think --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have three.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, you have your standard three and granted, you know, we all kind of bounce questions off of each other. So if...so if come the 12th and we need more time, then yeah. This Committee will probably be asking if you guys are willing to share some of your time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then we will take this up at the April 5th Council meeting?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Is it April 5th?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: It would be the last Council meeting in March --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I think in March.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- so I believe that's March 22nd.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. 'Cause the posting deadline is March 15 for the 22nd. Okay. Okay. So the 12th is generally...oh, that's the reserved for recessed meetings, and then that week is a non-committee week, so...

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: As long as no one else starts taking up the days, we should be able to get a recess day if we need it.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then Staff...oh...who’s going to surgery? Oh, man. Okay, okay, okay. And then we need to approve everything by...what was the deadline?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: 22nd.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The deadline is technically March 31st, but our last Council meeting --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Council meeting is on the 22nd.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- currently is the 22nd unless we schedule...well, I don’t think we could schedule a special meeting, because we get the budget on the 25th.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Perfect. I love it. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, we are kind of on a tight schedule, but I think, you know, we have nine of us. Hopefully we can get it done. If everybody is flexible if we need another meeting time, I’d really appreciate it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Of course, thank you. Any more questions? Member Sugimura, followed by Member Paltin. Okay. Go, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So I think I have two main questions. The first one is, is there a publicity plan ‘cause --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Marketing.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- marketing?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. So we have a press release that is ready to go as soon as this meeting is adjourned. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I like it.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: So you know. And then if we could all...huh? And social media too. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sure.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: So let’s all hui up and collectively spread this message.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And is there a premade Insta post as well?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Is there a premade Insta post we can share? We can make one.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I like that.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We can screenshot the press release.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then, so if they turn it in on the deadline but it’s incomplete, will we allow them to complete it on March 12th, like whatever is not missing? Because sometimes you have stuff that like...because I don’t imagine if somebody emails it, like, right at 12:00 noon on the date, is somebody going to...or February 29th at noon, leap day.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: What day?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Leap year.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, leap day.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: If --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: The 29th, yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: If people are...because, you know, like permits.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Right.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You’re missing information, but you made the deadline or whatever like that. Like what is the process? Like they can clarify or add in the missing information when we interview them and their thing would still be considered accepted by the deadline?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: That’s a good question. So if you look at the application, it’s really not too much information. So it says name, residence, employment history, community and professional organizations, activities, previous County experience, if any, educational background, and their preference for boards,

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

commissions, and committees. So I'm assuming, you know, this shouldn't take too long to fill out, but if they're missing just a little bit information, that's maybe not too relevant, sure we can go from there. But we are going to need the committee preferences so that we can get them on the exhibits prior to posting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So it's like the first test.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. You know, again this is not too hard, so let's hope they can fill out their name.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And we got to be able to read their contact information --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Absolutely.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So legibility is important.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then each Councilmember can do outreach too, to --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- say like, hey, apply for this or something.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Absolutely.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I think you'd be great, or whatever.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Totally. On this third page, you will be able to see, you know, where...where the vacancies are. And, you know, if you know somebody, if you go...like let's say for instance, even though Member Johnson is not in this meeting right now, it says Police Commission, one Lānaʻi residency. You know, I would assume that he would hopefully have somebody or think of somebody, and then we can go from there. And it does kind of spell out some of the specifics we might need. Well, we will need, I'm sorry, not might need. We will need to consider their --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Like posting a \$15,000 bond and be a resident of Maui County three years prior kind of stuff?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mm-hmm.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: The other thing, you know, going by Member Rawlins' three standard questions, and we kind of sometimes...I'm not saying give the person a hard time, but like --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: You thoroughly vet them.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: No, not the applicant. The...Ms. Vicens or whomever is in that role, that they've gone over with the applicant like the time commitment, how often they meet like that. But we're not giving our applicants those types of information, so they might be all like, yeah, I want to sit on the Police Commission or whatever. But they may not have the knowledge of where to find out how often they meet. And then I think it would be important in the publicity also to say...I think we passed the ordinance about if you miss 50 percent of the meetings...that kind of stuff that we usually expect Ms. Vicens to go over with each applicant, we're not doing it. We're just asking for people to apply for it. So I mean I could do it, but I really am tapped out of things to do.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: But just to say like this board meets on these days and for all of them, you got to be there. Like all the things that Ms. Vicens usually does on everyone's behalf, I think somebody should still do that.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Good point. In our press release, can we maybe specifically direct the potential nominees to the website where it shows and they can find that information?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yeah, we have that linked on the application and can add it to the press release. And just while I have you since I know that some of you may check, this list on page four of the application or attached to the application is the current seats with the Council as of today and ones that we would be able to fill by our deadline. So for example, there's a couple that are with the Mayor and, you know, so they won't be reflected on this list, and then there are some...like for example, he has Mayor appointees that we don't touch, you know. So just things like that, it will not be reflected in this list, and so this is everyone...every seat we would need to fill by March 22nd.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I think we need to clarify, because of the new Charter requirements where like Maui Planning Commission, one seat, no specialized qualifications. They might not have to have a professional qualification, but they're going to have to be from Kihei, because that was the big

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

issue of...like for the previous...the current person who terms on in March moved from Kihei --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And just the fact that they are no longer a resident in that district, disqualified him from serving. So any of these positions that are district specific, I think we need to clarify that for all of us so that we don’t go finding terrific people who can’t serve because they don’t live in the district.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Right. So shall we provide --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: South Maui.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: -- the Members a list of that document like what I have? The board listing where it shows all the seats? Yeah. We can send you guys...yeah. So this is kind of the overall one, and there are I think more nuanced information that we can get you. And I don’t have time to vet this information for you guys, but you are welcome to go through the list and find where your district needs a seat. Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I commend you for taking this on for the first time. We’ve never done this before. Well, I on the Council, we’ve only done like one board or commission at a time. We’ve never done the mass nominations. So question on when we receive the applications and they put multiple...so there’s lines for six, do we then call them up for all of them, or do we, like, choose, like, the...in order of priority? And so if, like, multiple people let’s say choose the Maui Planning Commission as number one, for example. And so then there’s like, you know, ten people applying for the one seat. Do we interview all ten and then if one...only one will be chosen, so then do we interview the other nine for their second choice?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: That’s a good question. So I think to Member Cook’s point, there are only going to be...there’s going to be certain criteria that people are going to need. So you know, if --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pretend that they...in my hypothetical --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: They all are from Kihei. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- they qualify and they’re all from South Maui.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Only one seat.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. If they’re all from South Maui, then we will put their name down, let’s say hypothetically on Exhibit A, and then we can talk to all of them. And then, we could probably...we can take their number to...let’s say if it was Liquor Commission, if that seat was available for Liquor Commission, and interview them on that as well. And I think maybe we can discuss that as a Committee or...and with everybody on how that would work? But I don’t know if you could have more than one name on all the different resolutions.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yeah, we have it listed as nominees. So you know, in this case it would be Council nominees. We could list all the names of qualified applicants. So for example, Maui County Cultural Resources Commission, you know, one seat...two of them are not specialized, so in theory everybody who meets the residency area requirements and everything would fill...fit that seat. But then also there’s a Hawaiian Culture Ethnic History seat. So you know, we just want to make sure whoever is on there is qualified if they need to be with specific specialization, and then as you’re going through, Staff will track like this person is...you’ve already approved this person to this board or, you know, to make sure that we are only filling the amount of seats available and also that, you know, in some cases people are willing to serve on more than one board. But, you know, we’ll just flag it for you so that you know you’re potentially appointing someone to more than one board.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So then...okay. Let’s say the ten for the one seat, like do we invite all ten to come in then for the March 12th GREAT Committee meeting? And then do we talk to all of them or, like, would a Councilmember like nominate or...that way we don’t have to do ten, maybe it gets narrowed down to three, because other Councilmembers recommend the same person from South Maui.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Good question. How do we do that?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: I would defer to Remy and Corp. Counsel here, but I don’t know how you could all communicate with each other --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Who’s going to nominate for --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, not to each other. Like if we would send it to the GREAT Committee, and then the GREAT Committee would receive

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

our like first pick or whatever, and then we invite like the top three instead of like all ten.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: I --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can we form a TIG?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: I guess...oh, God.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Did I just swear?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Because I guess it's something else we could discuss too. Just the immediate thing that comes to my head is getting all the applicants' names and applications to you prior to posting would be a little bit difficult just cause we have the applications open until the 29th. We're expecting to still receive, you know, whoever comes back from the RAOs on March 1st, and then over the weekend and everything get the revised resos through review and posted by the Wednesday is just --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So what if we have, like, all the applications that we receive on the OneDrive like we did before, and so then we can see all the applications after March 1st, and then we can make our recommendation too. I'm just trying to like brainstorm how it can be as least chaotic as possible.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I mean if we could get ten qualified people to apply for any one board and commission, considering how we have difficulties doing so now, I think we should celebrate. And maybe we can cross that bridge if we need to get there. So we can...if...I mean hypothetically, worse best case scenario there is ten, then I guess we will need a second meeting. And yay for us. Exactly. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, this time I'll go after Member Sugimura, because she raised her hand.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Member Sugimura. All three ladies in the white jacket.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So Cost of Government is concerned that they're going to be losing these five members, right? So quorum. No matter what, we're going to follow this process. Cost of Government I guess just can't meet or they won't be able to meet quorum.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Well, they would have...if they don't meet quorum now, then that's not anything we could have done to fix it within the timeline we have. They would have been leaving on the 31st anyway, which is when they would lose

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

quorum, which is why we have a deadline to get it done. So if we act within this timeline, our goal is to ensure that all boards, committees and commissions can meet quorum, including the Cost of Government.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. And the other thing could you do is, could you make this print a little darker? It's very light.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just the ink.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yep. If we can.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think you got it electronically, and then you can print it on your own?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: But it's still light.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We can maybe make it thicker? I don't know, but it is available online, and then they can go from there. But, yeah, we can adjust the settings.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Or they can adjust the settings on their printer if need be as well. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I guess at this time I would like to hear from Corp. Counsel as to how this plays into the Charter INB thing.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, good point.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mimi, or anyone? Thank you.

MS. DESJARDINS: Well, first we have to get the microphone on. That's step one. Go ahead. You take a stab at it. They're laughing, so.

MS. MURAKAMI: Did we say we're going with old school?

MS. DESJARDINS: So we are operating with...under the assumption that the INB provisions are not in play yet, so we're using the old version of the Code. And

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

once the INB goes into play, then we'll revert everything to the version of the Code that includes provisions about the INB. So I know...I just checked. I think they're all approved, except Hāna and Moloka'i have to still go through Council. So hopefully soon that will be in place. I don't know if that answers your question.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So just to clarify, like at the next Council meeting we'll confirm Moloka'i and Hāna. Is it...it's a resolution, so just one reading. So after that the INB is in play, so would it be their job to recruit and vet people instead of this, what we have proposed here, or still --

MS. DESJARDINS: So you're going to go through...what's happening here you're going to see that through to the end. That is not going to involve the INB on any level.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh...got it.

MS. DESJARDINS: It's...I imagine it'll still take them some time to get seated and have their first meeting and get organized. But yeah, so that they're not...they're not involved in what you're doing.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And our Legislative Attorney agrees with that? Just checking.

MR. MITCHELL: Yes. We are in agreement with Corporation Counsel. Thank you, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. So all the lawyers are our shield for our actions we're going forward, because we're not lawyers...I'm not a lawyer.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So when the INB...after we finish this --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- any vacancies, then the INB will take care of. That's how it will work. Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure. Yeah, Corp. Counsel is nodding their head. For the record.

MS. DESJARDINS: Yeah. So yeah. Once...this process will continue. Hopefully this will take care of the quorum issues and the vacancies that we've been struggling with. Once you folks get through this process, which actually from the looks of it is very close in time to what would have happened had the Mayor made the

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

picks. Because we're looking at March 1st, April 1st, as the crucial time of when folks are...March 31st is when they're out. So this should work fine, and we should not have any quorum issues. And then hopefully after that the INB is in place and they'll have a system going forward.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Of course. Thank you. Okay. Members, do we have any other questions?

MR. MITCHELL: Chair, if I could just clarify a point here?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please.

MR. MITCHELL: Member Paltin, I think we...when we talk about the INB being in place, I think what we mean is not only have they been...the members have been selected, but they've actually had their first meeting and elected their Chair and Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you for that clarification. I love clarifications.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Me too. Thank you, Remi. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. For the Moloka'i Planning Commission, there's an individual who I believe served a full five-year term and would have been up for reappointment. Can you explain how that was...would have been possible, Corporation Counsel?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The first individual. She served a full five-year term, not a partial term. And so I thought that the Charter required sitting out for a year prior to serving another five-year term. But if I'm wrong --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Good question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that's going to be good to know.

MS. DESJARDINS: Well, maybe since those aren't being considered, we can skip that question. I don't have an answer. I'd have to go back and look at it. I apologize. But that's a good point.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mm-hmm.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

MS. DESJARDINS: So if folks...generally speaking, if folks served less than two years, they can get reappointed, but after that they can't get reappointed. So I'm not sure how that happened.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. I was just trying to figure out for Moloka'i --

MS. DESJARDINS: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- if that's an option, because there's three seats for the Moloka'i Planning Commission.

MS. DESJARDINS: Right. Okay. Well, you know what, if you want to talk to us offline, we can help clarify that for you before you reach out to your community and ask those folks.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. That's a great question. I was wondering that about somebody else too. Okay, do we have any other questions? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So just...I know there's going to be a press release, and it's probably going to be in the press release, but I got this in my hand right now --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yep.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: How would the public get a copy, and is it a fill...pdf fillable form?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: It's a pdf fillable form, yeah, Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: It's a pdf. I can make it a fillable form.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: 'Cause save on handwriting and all.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, we learned about that this morning too. And then it is on Granicus as well --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: -- under this Committee, and it’ll be shared on the press release as well.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, a link will be in the press release.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. I think it’ll...we can make sure that it’s clear where they can find the application.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then I didn’t see in Granicus...they have that list with all the people who are on boards and commissions and like that for us like how Member Cook was saying --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: We love geographic diversity, even if it isn’t required and things like that. But my paper sheet burnt down that I had --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. We can get you another one.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: You’re welcome. We can get you one too, Member Cook.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: We’ll issue an updated board listing so that everyone has that information.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We’re going to get you guys an updated board listing, to your question earlier too about the residency requirement. Yeah, and all the others. Okay. Any more questions? Is Member Sinenci on the line? Does he have any questions? I didn’t even check. He was...oh, yeah. Now we’re in team white, because earlier he was team beige. Member Sinenci, do you have any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No questions, Chair. We’ll wait for the press release comes out.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And feel free for everybody to share the application that’s on Granicus. Okay. We have a quick suggestion from Corp. Counsel.

MS. DESJARDINS: I’ll make it quick. You know, what might also be helpful in your press release is to encourage folks to look at past meetings, videos, look at the rules so they kind of know what they’re getting themselves into. Because we staff boards and commissions, we have a lot of experience with these folks. They’re wonderful. The ones who do really well are the ones that have walked into it really knowing what they’re doing. And then the ones who struggle are the ones

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

who I think didn't take enough time to really consider the time commitment and...just look at some of the past meetings and is this something you really want to do, so --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thanks.

MS. DESJARDINS: Just a suggestion.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's a great --

MS. DESJARDINS: Not a legal suggestion, just a --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's a great suggestion.

MS. DESJARDINS: -- friendly suggestion.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's a great suggestion. We can do that. Me too. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So we had one testifier, and he seemed pretty passionate about what he was sharing.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: But of course, he didn't give us names, and I just wonder if maybe we can reach out to him? Maybe I can do it myself.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just to make sure we don't stumble upon something that we shouldn't.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: You can do that. You can reach out personally. But then again, I think he was...I think he was --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No, no.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- talking about people that were nominated on the other --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Cultural Resources.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- on the other resolution for people, of which we're not taking. So unless that person reapplies, then that's not necessarily going to be a concern moving forward. Because everybody has to reapply. We're starting from scratch.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Well, we might nominate that person. We don't know who this is. I mean he seemed pretty --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Pretty strong.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: If they apply.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Well, if they apply.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: We might ask them to apply.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: And then we can...yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Done. Let's go. Oh, good.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Any more questions before we heled out of here?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: This was great.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Oh, yeah, go ahead, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was wondering if we could get tagged in the post of the press release?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We can get tagged. Can you tag our Councilmember? Is it an official thing that you can tag? Okay, we're going to have to see and then...or, or maybe we can just reach out...we can...she'd let us know when it goes out.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Text me.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. And then we will know that it's available, and we can share it on our own things.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, because you know, sometimes you get the email press release and then I go to the social media to share it and it's not up yet, and then I'm like, you know, I got things to do and --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We got things to do.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- places to go, people to see things.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: That’s right. Posts to share all the things. But we’ll let you know then when it goes live on social media and when the press release is sent out.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Have your people text my people.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We will get our people in touch. We might have the same people. Anything else? All right. This item was posted for no legislative action, so I will defer this item. This concludes the --

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: GJ, TK)

ACTION: **DEFER** pending further discussion.


CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. This concludes the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting. Thank you very much, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Not even one hour.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: The time is 3:26, and this meeting is adjourned. Good luck to us all. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

ADJOURN: 3:26 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



NOHELANI U‘U-HODGINS, Chair
Government Relations, Ethics, and
Transparency Committee

great:min:240216

Transcribed by: Terianne Arreola

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

February 16, 2024

CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 25 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 20th day of February 2024, in Wailuku, Hawai'i.



Terianne Arreola