

# **AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**February 8, 2024**

**Online Only via TEAMS**

**CONVENE:** 1:31 p.m.

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Chair  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 4:05 p.m.)  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member

**EXCUSED:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

**STAFF:**

Samantha Tanck, Legislative Analyst  
Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary  
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney  
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst  
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

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

Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson  
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson  
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama  
Michele McLean, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Lee  
Angela Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin  
Haunani Madela, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez  
Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez  
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci  
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci

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Laura McDowell, Executive Assistant to Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins

**ADMIN.:** Mimi Desjardins, First Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (All)  
Nahulu Nunokawa, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (All)  
Luana Mahi, Director, Office of Economic Development (ADEPT-1(3))  
Joshua Cooper, Environmental Coordinator, Office of Innovation and Sustainability (ADEPT-1(14))  
John Stufflebean, Director, Department of Water Supply (ADEPT-1(4))  
Eva Blumenstein, Planning Program Manager, Department of Water Supply (ADEPT-1(4))  
Robert DeRobles, Planner, Department of Water Supply (ADEPT-1(4))

**OTHERS:** Jay Penniman, Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Projecy (ADEPT-1(3))  
Alex de Roode (ADEPT-1(14))  
Hannah Shipman-Peila (ADEPT-1(14))  
Teya Penniman, Maui Invasive Species Committee (ADEPT-1(3) and -1(4))  
Lori Buchanan, Moloka‘i Invasive Species Committee (ADEPT-1(3) and -1(14))  
Darla Palmer-Ellingson, 360 Social Business, LLC (ADEPT-1(14))

Testifiers

Dan Eisenberg, East Maui Watershed Partnerhsip (ADEPT-1(4))  
Pōmaika‘i Kaniaupio-Crozier, Pu‘u Kukui Watershed Partnership (ADEPT-1(4))  
Genesis Young (ADEPT-1(14))  
Amy Hodges, Maui Nui Marine Resources Council (ADEPT-1(3))  
Cristina De Leon (ADEPT-1(4))  
Kerri Fay, The Nature Conservancy (ADEPT-1(4))  
Chris Brosius, Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership (ADEPT-1(4))  
Russell Kallstrom, The Nature Conservancy (ADEPT-1(14))  
Kelly King (ADEPT-1(4) and -1(14))  
Lucienne de Naie (ADEPT-1(3))  
Mark Deakos (ADEPT-1(14))  
Charlene Schulenberg, Pili Koko (ADEPT-1(3))  
Geoff Oxnam, American Microgrid Solutions (ADEPT-1(14))  
Makalea Ane, Living Pono Project (ADEPT-1(4) and -1(14))  
Niklos Dudley, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (ADEPT-1(4))  
Jasee Law

(7) additional attendees

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

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CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha. Will the Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, and Public Transportation Committee of February 8th, 2024 please come to order. The time is now 1:31 p.m. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you are not

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in the Council Chambers, 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, and remember to silence all cellphones. Good...good afternoon, everyone. I look forward to chairing a productive meeting. I'm Gabe Johnson, your Committee Chair. And joining us today is Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci. Aloha, Councilmember.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Hey, aloha, Chair, and good afternoon. Here at my home office by myself. And I'll wait to see...I doubt that there are any testifiers in Hāna.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that. Let's move on to Council Chair Alice (*audio interference*) Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha 'oe to the Chair and everybody. I'm here alone in my workspace.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thank you for that. Committee Member Tom Cook may come. I know he's getting ready to travel, so he's excused for now. Moving on to Committee Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. 'Oe. Aloha, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā kākou mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office alone on my side of the office. There are currently no testifiers at the Moloka'i District Office wanting to testify in the beginning of the meeting. And hau'oli mahina 'ōlelo Hawai'i. I see Chair Lee embracing 'ōlelo Hawai'i month, which is February.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. Good point of information. Committee Member Yuki Lei Sugimura is excused as well as Committee Member Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. And we always want to invite our non-voting Committee Members, Councilmember Tasha Kama as well as Councilmember Tamara Paltin. As we know, Councilmember Paltin and Kama will be traveling as well. Councilmember Paltin is already in DC right now. So...oh, she's now...she popped online. Okay. Great. Aloha, Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha ahiahi as we say here in DC.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Are you alone?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm alone in the hotel room. I might have to step away at two o'clock. We have a testimony in front of the State Leg on lifeguard tort liability.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Spinning a lot of plates as usual. From the Administration, Office of Innovation and Sustainability, Office of the Mayor, we have Joshua Cooper,

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Environmental Coordinator. We have Office of Economic Development, Office of the Mayor, Luana Mahi, Economic Development Director. We have with us Department of Water Supply Eva Blumenstein Planning Program Manager, Robert DeRobles, Planner V...VI. Corporation Counsel we have Christie Trenholme, Deputy Corporation Counsel. On our Committee Staff we have Sam Tanck, Legislative Analyst; Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst; Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney; Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary; and Jean Pokipala, Assistant Clerk. Today, on our agenda we have three items, Members. And we have ADEPT-1(14), Update of Climate Action and Resilience Plan and Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainability Contracts. ADEPT-1(4), Operational and Budgetary Review of Watershed Protection Grants Administered by the Department of Water Supply. ADEPT-1(3), Operational and Budgetary Review of Environmental Protection Grants Administered by the Office of the Mayor. These items are informational only and no legislative action will be taken today, Members. Thank you all for the Members and the Administration for being here today. Let's begin with public testimony on all items on the agenda. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted in addition...in addition to in-person testimony. Individuals wishing to testify in person may sign up with the Staff member at the entrance of the Chambers. For those joining us via Microsoft Teams, please let the Staff know if you wish to testify using your raise-hand function. In accordance with the Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting but cannot be limited to the start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called upon when the agenda after...called upon on the agenda after the Administration's opening remarks. When testifiers sign up to testify, please let Staff know whether you wish to testify at the beginning of the meeting or...or before an item on the agenda. Otherwise, Staff will assume the testifier will testify at the beginning of the meeting. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should have joined the online meeting via the link or the phone number noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can submitted through...via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I'll kindly ask you to complete your testimony. We ask that you state your full name and...and organization, but if you prefer to testify anonymously, Staff will identify you and refer to you as "Testifier" and assign you a number. Please familiarize yourself the number you have been assigned so that you are prepared to testify when called upon. This can be seen by referencing your display name on Teams. Please also indicate the agenda item or items you are testifying on. Please be courteous to others by turning on...turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you're done testifying or you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on Akakū Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). Thank you all for your cooperation. The Chair will maintain decorum at all times. Any person who behaves in a manner that disrupts, disturbs, or impedes the orderly conduct of any Council meeting can at the discretion of the presiding officer or majority of the present Councilmembers be ejected or banned from Council meetings. Or if participating remotely, muted and dropped from the meeting. Examples of disruptive behavior include heckling, shouting, use of profanity, threatening or slandering remarks made to any members of the Council, Staff, or general public. As a reminder, the chat should be used only to sign up for testimony

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and not for public commentary on the meeting. It will be considered a breach of decorum for members of the public to use the chat for anything other than testimony sign-up. Committee Members, I'll now proceed with oral testimony. Staff has been monitoring the individuals joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we'll do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. At this time, we'll call upon our testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. Staff, do we have any testifiers today?

MS. MCKINLEY: Yes, Chair. The first testifier is Jay Penniman, to be followed by Dan Eisenberg.

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

MR. PENNIMAN: Aloha, Chair Johnson, Chair Lee, Members of the ADEPT Committee. I am Jay Penniman, Manager of the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project for the past 18 years. Thank you for your support of our project and the numerous other environmental projects such as forest birds, invasive species control, and watershed protection that you have and continue to support. Maui County leads all the counties of Hawai'i in the level of support for the natural environment upon which we all depend. Seabirds are ecological engineers. The marine nutrients they transport to the terrestrial habitat are responsible for the organic components of the Hawaiian soils in which all of our native plant community evolved. These nutrients also nourish and build resiliency in the nearshore coral reef habitats that protect our islands from sea level rise. Of course we must also manage the deposition of sediments and toxic runoff to restore our reefs, but new scientific literature continues to document the fact that seabird-derived nutrients are essential to healthy, thriving coral reef ecosystems. MNSRP efforts supported by County funding have resulted in increases in seabird populations at Kama'ole III Beach Park and four other seabird colonies on Maui and Moloka'i. I submitted a graph depicting this for two of these colonies in written testimony that you should have in your packets. The predator control and habitat restoration that is largely responsible for this increase is work we must continue for the seabirds to continue to survive and contribute their nutrients to our ecosystem. Continuing County funding at the line item you budgeted for FY '24 and for future budget cycles is critical to this work. Nine years ago I was able to bring on an outreach professional because the Office of Economic Development agreed that funding a position with MNSRP aligned with workforce development objectives. The County has continued to fund this position, increasing the FTE over the past years until last year. Outreach is a vital activity of our project. We depend on residents and visitors to be aware of seabirds in distress, and the only way for them to know when a seabird is and how to respond is to have been exposed through public school programs, public events, and permanent displays such as we've been able to establish in partnership with Maui Ocean Center and plan to do this year at Hawai'i Wildlife Discovery Center. Our community outreach liaison has developed relationships with. . .(timer sounds). . .schools, teachers, community organizations, and environmental organizations. She has ongoing programs that all depend on the continuation of County funding. I have attached a sampling of letters of support for her

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work in my written submittal. Additionally, she and her family were recipients of a workforce housing home. They depend on her income to maintain their economic viability. In conclusion, I believe our principle investigator has copied you all on the letter he sent to the Office of Innovation and Sustainability in response to the Office's notice that they would be providing only about 60 percent of the budgeted funding for our work. This reduction in funding would mean I will have to lay off our community outreach liaison and reduce our on-the-ground efforts as well. I do not believe this is consistent with the intent of the Council or the mandates of this Committee. Mahalo for your attention.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Penniman, for your testimony. And are you...are you able to stick around today? I could designate you a resource if you're free.

MR. PENNIMAN: I will be around.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Members, do you have any objections to designating Mr. Penniman as a resource person under Rule 18(A) of the Council given his expertise in this subject matter?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. If...when we get into discussions, we might have questions for your, Mr. Penniman.

MR. PENNIMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Staff, will you call the next testifier please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Dan Eisenberg, to be followed by Pōmaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier.

MR. EISENBERG: Aloha, Chair Johnson and Members of the Committee. I'm Dan Eisenberg. I'm the Program Manager of the East Maui Watershed Partnership, and I'm testifying to item 1(4), the Department of Water Supply grants program. So yeah, I'm Dan Eisenberg. I've worked with East Maui Watershed Partnership since 2008, and I thank you for this opportunity to speak about some of the important work that's made possible by support from the Department of Water Supply's Source Protection Grants Program. The East Maui Watershed Partnership was the first watershed partnership formed in the State, and we've worked since 1991 with a diverse group of landowners and stakeholders to help manage the 100,000-acre East Maui watershed. With our limited resources we have to target the highest priority threats to the health and sustainability of the watershed. We focus our efforts on the most fragile parts of the watershed and those areas that most directly impact surface water collection and aquifer recharge. In the last six months since the fires, we've also done planning and started to seek funding for wildfire risk reduction projects. The East Maui Watershed Partnership accomplishes our goals primarily through on-the-ground natural resource management. The project

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sites that we work at are very remote, and most of them can only be accessed by helicopter, so we need to be flexible with our scheduling to accommodate helicopter availability and most importantly the weather on windward Haleakalā. This presents a challenging schedule for our field crew. And they don't earn a lot of money, but they do what they do because they love the resources that we're protecting, and they each love different aspects of the work. The main threats that we focus on are keeping feral animals outside of fenced areas and doing strategic control of invasive weed species with the most potential to disrupt the watershed. The grants program also helps fund a part-time community education, an outreach program, which instills respect and understanding of the watershed's function to the next generation of environmental stewards through classroom visits, volunteer planting of native trees, hikes into the native forest, and other activities, mostly oriented...mostly targeted towards local school groups. And I've spoken about the East Maui Watershed Partnership's project, but this grants program from the...the Department of Water Supply and really all of the environmental work that Maui County supports acts as a comprehensive and complementary suite of projects that amplify one another. An important example of this is the Maui Invasive Species Committee . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . who work...help us with important parts of our watershed protection goals on the windward slope but also have a wide-ranging impact on our community, both complementing agriculture and really our quality of life. So I know I'm just about out of time, so I just want to thank you guys so much for your continued support, and we couldn't do what we do without...without the support from the County and the Department of Water Supply and your support of the Department of Water Supply helping us. So thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. Let's see if we have any questions from our...from our Members. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you so much for testifying again.

MR. EISENBERG: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mahalo. Staff, will you call the next testifier please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Pōmaika'i Kaniau...I'm sorry, Kaniaupio-Crozier, to be followed by Alex de Roode.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Mahalo nui. That'll do. Kaniaupio-Crozier. So mahalo nui for the effort. Ma mua o ko'u ho'ākāka 'ana kēia awakea, kēia 'auinalā, makemake wau e hā'awi ke aloha i ko kākou luna a iā 'oukou, Tamara mā, ka po'e ma Zoom a iā 'oukou e 'ākoakoa mai nei, nā limahana, Department of Water Supply a me ko kākou po'e hana nui. Aloha. I'm Pōmaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier, Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve...with Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve. I'm the Conservation Director for...we stopped counting. After a decade you just put one foot in front the other. But I'd like to give my aloha to all of you for your time today. And first of all by saying mahalo nui to Maui County. You know it's nice that we're talking about water and not fire, so mahalo for having this meeting. We appreciate all of the support that the Department of Water Supply and Maui County, Eva and Robert and...and the rest of the Staff, John, who

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continually support the good work that many don't see. Right. Pu'u Kukui Watershed does the same thing that Dan just explained, yeah, so I'm trying...not going to waste everybody time. Whether it be ungulate management, be rare species protection, invasive species removal, outreach, and all that good things. But most of all, drinking water. Drinking water. Pu'u Kukui Watershed is the second wettest spot on earth. Sometimes it goes between second and third depending on which year it is and whatnot, but after 300 inches is more bragging rights than anything else. Right. It averages nearly 400 inches of rain, and that hasn't been the case recently. Last year we didn't even hit 200 inches. Right. We were in the most severe drought in a century, in our lifetime. And we've come through COVID where we tell everybody to wash your hands more, 20 seconds each, use more water, but we catching less, you know. So I really thank Maui County and the Department of Water Supply for continuing to support that good effort. We checked over 60,000 meters of fence line, aerial survey nearly 3,000. We reached over 1,000 people. And this is not counting what happened between August 8th and today and the role Pu'u Kukui Watershed played in that efforts. Everybody from Honokōhau to Lāhainā get their water from Māhinahina Water Treatment Plant located just below Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve. And we take that really seriously, all of us watershed folks. Regardless if you're on the wet side or the dry side, that these ecosystems make up a place so fragile that collects all of our rainwater, all of our fog drip, our drinking water, and gives us everything we have from the water that we drink, the showers we take, the people and guests . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . that we invite over. So we just applaud--this is in regards to ADEPT-1(4). Ask that you continue to support Pu'u Kukui Watershed. Four people over 9,000 acres does not seem adequate in a time where we catching half the amount of water. I can't stop climate change. We out plant trees by the thousands and do what we can to offset our carbon footprint and reach so many volunteers, but we need more capacity, and we need your continued support. It's hard for somebody who's been with me for nine years doesn't know if they're going to have a job in two years. When I'm telling them go back country, camp there for four days, I'll pull you out, risk your life, and they're fighting Davis-Bacon wages recruitment in Lāhainā. But I need these guys. I...I --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: -- I really appreciate the love and the passion that they have. Species like 'o'opu and hīhīwai won't make it to County Council. We have to speak on the flora and fauna and the species and the dependability that all of our community needs for us to be the rockstars of watershed protection, which we have been over the years. But we're facing threats that have grown beyond. What is the water needs that we will need for the Fire Department, for landscape, for all of the efforts. We have to catch the water first before we --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: -- figure out how we distribute. So, me kēia mau mea, ua hāpai aku nei ku'u leo, mahalo iā 'oukou, from everybody from Mayor Bissen to our Councilmembers and down, mahalo nui for remembering us and what we do.



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CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much for your testimony. Let's see if we have any questions for you. Members, any questions for our testifiers? Seeing none. Thank you once again for all your work --

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- and your testimony. Mahalo. Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, we had one. Oh, go ahead. One second, I'm sorry. Go ahead, Councilmember. I beg your pardon.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Kaniaupio-Crozier. Mahalo for your testimony, no leo.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The less than 200 inches of rain, that was for 2023?

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Pololei.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then for 2022, do you remember how many inches?

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: I believe...sorry I don't have gauge data on hand; I could pull it up. But I want to say we were about 220, 230, somewhere around there. But dropping from 380 down to the low 200s...yeah. You know when you're up mauka in the rainforest and you start to see some of the ferns like the wahine noho mauna getting dry and crispy where usually these mosses you could squeeze them and drink them. You seeing the indicators like uh-oh, and so we have a reduced. And Pu'u Kukui being the second wettest spot, everything else is dryer across the State. So yeah, we've gone down to I believe 225. Eva can pull up the data. But last year and I think this year is just about 200. 1...I want to say 180, 190, around there. And majority of that came in the last two months. And October --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: -- we were only 152 I believe. So we caught the last 30-something

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inches in November/December, so.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah. Mahalo. Mahalo no kou hana nui.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Mahalo, pēlā nō.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I...I have a question for you.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Sure.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I...I know there's a lot of things that you're putting...you have to consider for your budget. Are you going to ask for more money in this Fiscal Year 2025?

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Amen. Yes. We cannot think...we'll be asking humbly and respectfully --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Do you have a price, how much?

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: -- because we know...10 million would be good, but we'll take whatever we can get. The honest truth is we're in uncharted territory. I believe in the past fiscal year, you know, we were at 380 I believe, but now you're looking at challenges that we've never seen in my career. A population that used to be in Lāhainā is either in Kā'anapali or in Central, so the usage is probably going to change for Māhinahina Water Treatment Plant in a time where we're catching less. So we have to do a better job for folks. And eight total from other funding sources is insufficient for 10,000...9,000 acres with these challenges. So we'd like to request more and...if budget allows. We always try to make sure that we're not looking for funds. We're looking to provide drinking water for families down below. And we never want to see the day when the Fire Department gets out, turns on the hose and nothing comes out. Because we put them in danger because of the lack of capacity that we will have up mauka. So whether...we're responsible for the action, not the reaction. Our request goes in. I thank the Department of Water Supply for their support. And previous Administration for...and current Administration for supporting with multi-year grants. When we build a fence section that may be a few miles long, it doesn't get accomplished in one fiscal year. So if we were able to say hey, we're going to budget you X amount over ten years --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: -- because right now I think we have a three-year pre-award, and we're on year two. But you need to forecast and plan ahead as more species are getting more intense. We found...finding a new species is like a big feather in the cap for anybody. That's like the claim to fame, I got a...I found a new species. We found ten --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: -- in Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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CHAIR JOHNSON: I...I don't doubt the...the valuable work you do. I just want to know if you're going to need more money to do the work.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Yes.

CHAIR JOHNSON: So it sounds --

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Yes.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- like you do, and the Department's here to hear you out. So thank you so much for your testimony.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Mahalo nui.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, we do we have another question.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Sure.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Go ahead, Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Aloha no, Pōmaika'i.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if you had been in recent contact with OED Luana Mahi or Maria Ornellas. We had heard previously that they had 500 or 600,000 of watershed money that they were looking to reassign. Of course they need to check in with the people who it was to go for, but it seemed like they were looking into all options. Do you have Ms. Mahi or Ms. Ornellas' number?

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Yes, and I've spoken to Luana too and...and Josh and everybody, so we're already in conversations and doing that. And that's why that open communication is key for us tree huggers way up in the forest, people who looking out, how can we help, tell us what you need. Because as the needs changed, we need more funds to get things done. You know helicopter seems glamorous, but for somebody who might be afraid of heights, you're doing it because it's the job; you're not really going on a thrill ride, but it's expensive. But it's a lot cheaper than making your crew walk for half a day. When they get to that spot, they just starting the job, they just parked the car. They didn't start the work yet. So those...as those costs increase too because of the need in Maui County, Maui Nui, we always make sure that we're sharing information back. So mahalo to Luana and OED. And mahalo, Councilmember Tamara. Because we can see the real need on the West Side. The need for water on the West Side during drought is equivalent to you standing in the sun all day and your need on your flask. It increases when you have less and it's hot. So we having to reach out to OED and request support as well as the Council here.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: That's great.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Members, any other questions? Okay. Seeing none. Thank you once again for your testimony. Mahalo.

MR. KANIAUPIO-CROZIER: Ke aloha nui iā 'oukou a pau.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha. Staff, will you call the next testifiers, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Alex de Roode, to be followed by Genesis Young.

MR. DE ROODE: Aloha, Chair Johnson. Aloha, Chair Lee. And aloha, Councilmembers. Good to see you all today. Long time no see for many of you. My name's Alex de Roode. I'm here testifying on my own behalf as a resident of Maui County, but also as former Energy Commissioner for the County of Maui and former member of the Office of Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainability. I'm encouraged to see this item...I'm here to testify on item ADEPT-1(14) regarding the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and the contracts of CCRS. Encouraged to see that on the agenda. I'm glad there's attention to those important initiatives. I am troubled though by --

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

MR. DE ROODE: -- the fact that the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan for example --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Welcome to the hearing of the House Committee . . .*(inaudible)*. . .of Hawaiian affairs.

MR. DE ROODE: -- was submitted in December --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's Thursday, February . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. DE ROODE: -- of 2022, transmitted to...

CHAIR JOHNSON: One moment, Mr. de Roode. Let's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . One moment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . running this hearing by video conference.

CHAIR JOHNSON: You guys got that? They got to scroll and manually mute...mute people. It's a little tricky. Okay. Mr. de Roode, beg your pardon.

MR. DE ROODE: Okay. No...no problem. Thank you. So yes, I am troubled that the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan that was transmitted to Council in December of '22 from Office of the Mayor as a draft but a very advanced and...very advanced draft has not yet

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moved ahead towards being adopted as the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan for the County. The County really needs to have a plan like this in place to help guide the work of climate change mitigation or decarbonization as well as climate adaptation. And at this point, City and County of Honolulu has Climate Action and Resiliency Plans in place. Hawai'i County has a climate action plan in place. And Kaua'i County is close to getting there as well. We don't want to be the only county that does not have a plan in place to help guide our efforts. And I will say that the...the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan was an over two-year effort by numerous Staff from the Office of Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainability as well as contractors that helped to support those efforts. And also received tremendous input from community. We had over a year-long community engagement process that included numerous meetings with groups from Hāna, from Moloka'i, from Lāna'i, as well as Maui...Maui Island overall. And received a lot of input in different ways, whether it was in-person workshops, online . . .(timer sounds). . .workshop, surveys, et cetera. I want to just emphasize the importance of making sure that work is honored and move...and moved forward with. The other contracts were also part of the larger climate action and resiliency efforts and are really supporting a lot of the work that's identified in the CARP. So we were already moving ahead with a number of these initiatives in...in various areas, whether it was resiliency hubs, electric vehicle charging, climate change vulnerability assessments, et cetera. That all complement the work that is found in the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. So I encourage the...the Council to move forward in...in, you know, working with the Administration and the departments to adopt the plan so we have that in place. I don't know how much more time I have, but I...I will just...last thoughts here. Is that I understand that the recovery efforts for Lāhainā have taken a tremendous amount of resources within the County and justifiably So that that's an area that really needs our support. That said, we cannot stop the work of climate adaptation and climate change mitigation. That work is vital and needs to continue even though we're in recovery efforts for impacts of climate change in part, right. We can't stop the climate...the work of climate mitigation and adaption because the intent of that is really to avoid future events like those of August 8th. So thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions, and I'm also available as a resource if I can be of help.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sure. Okay. Members, without objections...do you have any objection with designating Mr. de Roode as a resource person under Rule 18(A) of the Council?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for joining us, Mr. de Roode. If we have any questions during the discussion we can call you up. Thank you.

MR. DE ROODE: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Genesis Young, to be followed by Amy Hodges.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Staff, while we're waiting for Mr. Young to come on, how...how long is our testifier list?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, right now it appears there are 11 people signed up for this --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Good.

MS. MCKINLEY: -- at the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Genesis, are you on the call? Why don't we move on and then come back to him when we can.

MS. TANCK: Chair, he is unmuted on our end.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I...I know Teams has been tricky. So we can come back to him after this one.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Amy Hodges, to be followed by Hannah Shipman-Peila.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. We can see you, we just have to hear you. Got to unmute. Oh.

MS. HODGES: Aloha.

CHAIR JOHNSON: There it is. Got it.

MS. HODGES: Aloha. Amy Hodges here, Executive Director at Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. I'm testifying on item 1(3). We have an environmental grant this year working to protect Maui's coastal reef ecosystems. Thank you for your support. We ask for your continued support. I want to share briefly about a number of projects included in this grant, but that does not represent everything we do. But this grant allows us to leverage those funds as match for other funding opportunities and demonstrate buy-in from Maui County that then funds even more work. So I just want to mention that's the added value of this funding. Some examples of these extra projects include depositional sediment removal from gulches, ungulate fencing, analysis of like 3D AI mapping of our leeward reefs that was performed after the August fires. So this grant actually does more than is just in the grant itself. So for a quick recap of six things this grant includes. Our support for our Hui O Kai Wai Ola Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Program. I know Liz Yannell has been in this Committee a couple times recently sharing their monitoring efforts, especially as it pertains to Lāhainā. The hui is now up to 41 sites across leeward Maui and Lānaʻi. Provides quality-assured, State admissible data. Testing every three weeks year-round. They're also doing stormwater sampling after rain events, and planning to release our next major report summary of findings covering data through the end of 2023 coming this August. Another project is continued coral and reef fish surveys in South Maui. We're monitoring the near-shore reefs that are subjected to a lot of the runoff and land-based pollutants. There's also community-

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based coral restoration areas that we plan to implement in South Maui and hope to with our partner Kuleana Coral, who you may know of. We have our reef-friendly landscaping program. Transitioning properties away from conventional pesticides and herbicides into organic methods to help reduce chemical and nutrient runoff into our ocean. And then we're doing our visitor education campaign. So that's...you might have seen some of these ads on the big screens at baggage claim at Kahului Airport with simple messages driving home the point, you know, coral is alive, don't walk on it, don't kick it with your fins, stay back from wildlife like sea turtles, and check your sunscreen ingredients of course. So those are played also on geotargeted social media ads to that same visitor audience. Just simple messaging for people that don't know, you know, what's going on in Maui as much. And lastly, we have our monthly free Know Your Ocean Speaker Series Webinar with all kinds of different invited speakers on relevant topics to our community and reefs. And that's offered every month and is a great outreach opportunity to just engage all kinds of people. So thank you for your time. We want to thank you for your support. And that's the quick recap of our current grant. And we hope to continue doing...doing good work. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Hodges, for your testimony. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you once again for your testimony. You're doing great work. Mahalo. Staff, will you call the next testifier? Oh, we can go back to Genesis if he's available. Genesis, are you on the call? Staff, what's the command you push to unmute yourself? Is it control...what's the number? Or is it just M?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, it's star six if they're on the phone. But the Teams meeting they can just go to the top, and there is a microphone toward the top right-hand side of the screen.

CHAIR JOHNSON: It says mic. Yeah, you just got to click it. So I'm not hearing him. So we can move on to the next one then. The next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Hannah Shipman-Peila, to be followed by Cristina De Leon.

MR. YOUNG: Can you hear me now? Genesis Young here.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, okay. Yeah. We can hear Genesis Young now. If...if you don't mind, we'll...we'll go with Genesis. He's been waiting. Mr. Young, beg your pardon.

MR. YOUNG: Yeah, sorry for that. I had to leave and come back. I guess when you come on Teams you have to do a...you have to choose video on and stuff because I couldn't turn it on. So sorry about that. But didn't really have a lot to say except, you know, I just want to support the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan getting passed through. A lot of work went in as Alex de Roode just talked about a minute ago. And his whole department, which no longer exists, was sort of eliminated under this Mayor. And the first order of business would be to pass that plan. It doesn't really need much. It needs

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a lot more detail I think. They worked on it a long...made it very pretty and have lots of organization in it to really like it, but it...it needs more detail obviously. But it's just the beginning, and we don't really have much. And so I would just encourage us all to really get something in there. And...and let's try to also get a department, someone, a person who that becomes their responsibility. Even if it's under the Innovation and Sustainability Committee or however we need. You know climate action is really important. It is a crisis. I heard the other people talking about watershed. I also support the watershed and the...and the...and the need for water. And you know the rainfall is dropping. I live in Kahakuloa. You know, we live on one well, and they don't even measure the level of that well in the water company here even though it's a State law that they have to do that. Yeah. So we don't even know what our groundwater is doing. And a lot of houses depend on that one well up here in Kahakuloa. It's really kind of a little frightening to put your head in the sand like that. And we need watershed plans for all of our ahupua'a. Every area should have a watershed plan, and we only have a few of those actually in place. And I don't know why we're not looking at desalination. We could pump some of the water up to the hills too, and as it comes down it could make power. You know we can combine the water and the power resources together. So that's just a few ideas. But I just wanted to say let's fund watershed, let's fund our water. It's like really going to be an increasing problem for our society in the future. So yeah, thanks for listening, and thanks for all that you do. I appreciate all of you. Sorry I couldn't get on . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Okay. Let me see if we have any questions from our Councilmembers. Seeing no hands raised. Thank you once again for testifying, Mr. Young. Mahalo. Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Hannah Shipman-Peila, to be followed by Cristina De Leon.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I'm not hearing from Ms. Shipman. So we'll move on and then come back to her.

MS. TANCK: Chair, she...Ms. Shipman is unmuted on our end. We'll give her maybe a few seconds to try and unmute.

MR. YOUNG: It seems you actually have to leave and come back on. It's when you come on that you have to set it. That's what I had to do.

MS. TANCK: If she's not available, the next person signed up to testify is Cristina De Leon.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. DE LEON: Hi, can everyone hear me?

CHAIR JOHNSON: We can hear and see you loud and clear.



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MS. DE LEON: Wonderful. Thank you. Hi. I'm Cristina De Leon with the Teran James Young Foundation. I'm sorry that I missed Genesis' testimony but I was trying to figure out the Teams as well. I just wanted to testify regarding ADEPT-1(14) regarding the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. I had a chance to review it, and it's, you know, obviously a very thorough plan. A lot of time and energy and effort went into it. And I love how much information there is and how much research and, you know, there's a lot of information to back up everything. And obviously it's so important that we have some sort of plan to help mitigate climate change for Maui County. I would just love to see it adopted, and I would love to see some really clear action steps as well. You know I...I know there's a whole section on it that has, you know, the next steps. But I would just...I would love for those to be even more...you know, even more in detail so we can really see how things are going to come together. Yeah, I think...I think I'm complete in that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. De Leon, for your testimony. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Once again, thank you so much for testifying. Aloha.

MS. DE LEON: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Staff, will you call the next testifiers, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Kerri Fay, to be followed by Chris Brosius.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, we see your camera on, Ms. Fay.

MS. FAY: Hello?

CHAIR JOHNSON: And we can hear you.

MS. FAY: All right. All right. Aloha, Chair Johnson and Councilmembers. I'm the Maui Program Manager for The Nature Conservancy's Terrestrial Program. I'm here to talk about the watershed protection grants administered by the Department of Water Supply. We manage two preserves that together total about 10,000-plus acres. One is Waikamoi Preserve. It's at the headwaters of 13 watersheds and lies directly above Waikamoi Flume, which provides drinking water to Upcountry residents and businesses. And it's home to critically endangered birds and plants. Kapunakea Preserve and...contain a majority of the Honokōwai and portion of the Wahikuli Watershed headwaters in the Lāhainā Aquifer sector. Just wanted to let you guys know that the Department of Water Supply has been a stable funding source for our preserves. We were awarded over \$440,000 this past year for...for their FY '24 cycle. It supports a core staff of seven people and essential management work, including threat abatement and ungulate and weed control. DWS funding contributes about a third of our operating budget. And the DWS Staff have been very helpful and supportive. Thinking about the future and this next year, we're also thinking about fire mitigation and fuels reduction of course. And then thinking about stream flow and water usage and how it affects our

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nearshore reef ecosystems. And so we're thinking about the whole system instead of just fragments of the system. Overall, big mahalos to the County and the Department of Water Supply. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Ms. Fay. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for testifying. Really appreciate it. Mahalo. Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, we can try to return to Hannah Shipman-Peila, to be followed by Chris Brosius.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Ms. Shipman, are you on the call?

MS. SHIPMAN-PEILA: Yes. Can you hear me now?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Loud and clear.

MS. SHIPMAN-PEILA: Great. Perfect. Aloha, ADEPT Committee. My name is Hannah Shipman-Peila and I'm the former Green Building and Resilient Housing Specialist under Office of the Mayor and former CCRS, and I'm testifying as a community member for ADEPT-1(14). So Councilmembers, it's wonderful to see you again. And, Chair, thank you for bringing this...this work up in your Committee. The Climate Action and Resiliency Plan is a really great foundational piece, and I think it's critical that it moves forward and something is adopted. I want to iterate that Climate Action and Resiliency Plans are living documents and need to be updated frequently to really reflect what the community needs. A lot of community input and resources went into the...this iteration of the CARP, and I think it's important that this work continues. Again with the Federal funding coming down the pipeline for climate action and resiliency work, having a CARP in place will really allow the County to access a lot of those funds. I'm just really passionate about this work and the CCRS contracts, and I want to see this work continue on. I think they're really important and critical for Maui County. So thank you so much. And happy to serve as a resource if needed. I know you have Alex already, which is great.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Ms. Shipman-Peila, you're free to stick around I understand. So Members, without...do you have any --

MS. SHIPMAN-PEILA: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- objections to designating Ms. Shipman-Peila as a resource person under Council Rules 18(A) of the Council given her expertise in this matter?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. So we'll...we'll reserve questions later on in the discussion. Thank you so much for joining us. Staff, will you call the next testifier,

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please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Chris Brosius, to be followed by Russell Kallstrom.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha.

MR. BROSIUS: Aloha, everyone. Aloha, Chair Johnson, Committee Members. It's my pleasure to be here. My name is Chris Brosius, and I'm the Program Manager for the Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership. I'm here to thank you for your sustained support of Maui's watersheds and all your environmental programs. And I wanted to share with you some key developments in our program. In brief, last year through the support of the Department of Water Supply and also the leveraged grants, we have managed to build nearly one mile of fence to shore up our Lāhainā boundary, increased our ungulate management, further development of aerial weed control programs, plant over 1,400 trees, and engaged with over 4,500 people through our outreach programs. Our challenges have come in the form of shockwaves from the Lāhainā fires of course, hiring and wage growth limitations to remain competitive with the market, and staff turnover...turnover. Excuse me. We also are committed to seeking solutions to ongoing watershed degradation challenges, including upland wildfires, erosion, and advancements in our invasive species control issues. For the last...or for the year ahead I would like to highlight the addition of our dedicated outreach and education position, which was just started in January and will help to double our outreach efforts. With this capacity, we look forward to being able to mobilize more native forest restoration, school programs, and community engagement. We have also been awarded additional grants that will add office space, a vehicle, watershed imagery, and new staff capacity, and GIS reforestation, and wildfire fuel mitigation both on the mountains and within the wildland-urban interface around our watersheds. And this will bring our staffing up from 14 to 18 people. Overall, we are extremely thankful to Maui County and Department of Water Supply for supporting our...our core programs and providing us with foundational funding, upon which we continue to grow to meet the needs of protecting our forested watersheds. And it...it really cannot be emphasized enough how...how critical that foundational funds are to our growth prospect so that we can continue to meet the...the impacts and...and the threats against our watershed head on and get ahead of them. Because every time we lose an acre or 100 acres to some sort of threat, it is just purely . . .(timer sounds). . . irreplaceable. So we thank you for your support. And with that I'll take any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: *(audio interference)* Brosius. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Appreciate your hard work on the mountain. Mahalo. Staff, will you call the next testifiers, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Russell Kallstrom, to be followed by...we have Kerri Fay on the list again; it may be a mistake or maybe she has another item to testify on.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Mr. Kallstrom?

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MR. KALLSTROM: Aloha mai kākou. My name is Russell Kallstrom, and I'm The Nature Conservancy's Moloka'i Program Manager. On Moloka'i, The Nature Conservancy is the lead and . . . *(inaudible)*. . . facilitator of the East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership. And I'm here to say thank you to the Council and folks at DWS and voice support for item 1-4 [sic]. DWS has been a source of stable funding for over...well over a decade now supporting contracts and a core staff of six Moloka'i people working hard to protect the heart of the island's watershed. So one of the County's main freshwater pumping stations on Moloka'i is located at the base of the Kawela Watershed near the mouth of Kawela Stream. The highest elevations or po'o of this watershed is The Nature Conservancy's Kamakou Preserve. But middle zones have been impacted by goats and other feral animal for decades. State-of-the-art research into erosion and watershed health has been ongoing there since the early 2000s by US Geological Survey. So since starting our work in Kawela in 2009, actions of the East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership has been able to reduce sedimentation by almost 100 fully-loaded semi tractor trailers of dirt being dumped into the Kawela Stream every year as measured by the USGS stream gauge. And DWS was and remains instrumental in those efforts. Our marine team is currently looking into what this has meant for the state of Moloka'i's south shore fringing reef, which is the longest continuous fringing reef in the United States and a key source of food for Moloka'i people. So food and water, it doesn't get much more basic than that. I also want to echo what Pōmaika'i shared earlier about his observations about drying trend. Wahine noho mauna, and then we're seeing similar things on Moloka'i as well. And so just in summary, I'd like to wrap up by saying mahalo to you folks and also to Eva, Edna, Robert, and the Staff at DWS. They've always been hugely supportive of our work. And I ask for your continued support. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Mr. Kallstrom. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you once again. Appreciate your hard work. Mahalo. Staff, will you call the next testifiers, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, Kerri Fay might like another opportunity to testify on a different item, to be followed by Kelly King.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Is that correct, Ms. Fay, you wanted to testify on a different item?

MS. FAY: No, it was a mistake. Sorry about that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Appreciate you. Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Kelly King, to be followed by Lucienne de Naie.

MS. KING: Aloha.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha.

MS. KING: I thought I'd see a full Chambers here. Everybody's still on...on Teams.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: NACo is...is next week so.

MS. KING: Oh, okay. Great to see everybody. Even--I don't know if Alice Lee knows this, but every time a testifier comes on they block her screen, so we can't see you in Chambers. But it's good to see you guys all. Sorry we don't have a full complement in the Committee. But the first thing I wanted to do is just back up everybody who's testified on the watersheds because they're so important, and we really need to look at those as part of a holistic system with the wetlands. I understand the Administration has cut funding for the wetlands, and that's really disturbing to South Maui. But we see our...our watersheds and our wetlands as one system of how we protect against especially the floods in South Maui. So maybe consider that? I think that as we move forward with climate action, those are going to become more important components of our community. And yeah, I do want to thank the Water Department for all your support of that. When I first came on the Council one of the first budget sessions was I was in there was a...a 20 percent cut across the board for all watersheds, and my first proposal was put that 20 percent back in. So it was great that the Council supported it. The next issue I wanted to talk about was the...the Climate Action Plan, which in an overview it...it appears to be...you know, I appreciate all the work that went into it, but it's really more of a report than an action plan, and you've heard people today talk about it needing more action. I had a conversation with Joshua Cooper at the beginning of his installment into that position about how this needs to be turned into a real action plan, and I think that's the work that needs to happen before we call it an action plan. Because I'd hate to see it...you know, we get these reports and...and we got one for action after the...the 2018 Lāhainā fires and it sat on a shelf. If we had done some of those recommendations and considered it an action plan and acted on it, maybe some of the damage that...the extensive damage we had this time wouldn't have happened. But either...either call it a report, which is what it is to me. And I...I disagree with Alex a bit that there was great stakeholder involvement because I didn't see it as a Councilmember, and there was never an attempt to involve our committee, our CARE Committee in any of those deliberations. But I...I...I think we need to move forward, put some action in there. I think the...even though there's not an office called climate change, I believe it's all under the Office of Innovation and Sustainable. And I know Joshua is very well schooled in that and has intentions of...of really turning this into an action plan. I just came from...today from a presentation, I guess it's called the Mayor's Sustainability Speaker Series on the National Climate Assessment, the fifth one that has been done. And it's specifically on the chapter on Pacific islands. It was really a great presentation. It's two-parts, so they're going to do it again, the follow-up next month. But one of the key takeaways was there was a statement made that there's really not recommendations, policy recommendations . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . but they did mention some of the State Legislature legislation that could help that has not passed. And so one of my challenges to them was to look at that legislation and glean what we can do at the County-level. You know because we can do a lot. That sunscreen bill at the State-level, not very effective. We did it on Maui County, totally effective. And now I'm seeing ads that the tourism industry is putting on TV for these...the sunscreens issue. So I just want to encourage the Council, and this Committee in particular, to look at what legislation we can do on a County-level that we know we can pass even if

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the State can't. Because the...it...it can spread, you know, like the sunscreen bill, the Big Island adopted it after we did. So that's...I think that's to me the easiest way to get things done is go County by County because, you know, we...we do things out in the open, the Sunshine Law. The State can make all kinds of deals behind closed doors, and oftentimes they've already got their...their minds made up by the time the committee meetings are held, so. Anyway, thank you for listening. And I hope you guys can really take a hard look at this...this plan and maybe send it back for the actions that need to be --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. KING: -- put into it.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank...thank you, Ms. King. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Once again, thank you your testimony.

MS. KING: Okay. thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Good to see you.

MS. KING: Good to see everybody. And again, thank you for all your past support on the environmental protections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Of course. Okay. Staff, will you call the next testifiers, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Lucienne de Naie, to be followed by Teya Penniman.

MS. DE NAIE: Hello. This is Lucienne de Naie. I'm sorry my video isn't working, but hopefully you folks can hear.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah, loud and clear.

MS. DE NAIE: All right. Very good. I'm testifying today in gratitude for the Council's support in the last budget for a kind of unique and innovative program that is being sponsored by the Ha'ikū Community Association. This program has a few folks that are getting paid and a bunch of folks who are volunteering their considerable expertise to try to get much-needed data about the...the water quality in some of our most popular recreational areas in the Ha'ikū and Huelo area. As we all know, our visitors love to go out and see waterfalls and pools, and the road to Hāna at one time was the second most popular tourist attraction on Maui after the Maui Ocean Center. And what we see every day--I live out in East Maui, and I see the parking lots full at Twin Falls; I see people parked along the roads for other popular pool areas. But nobody really knows what is going on with the water quality there. And we have reached out to some experts in our community, Dr. Chris Shuler who's with the UH Manoa Water Resources Department is volunteering his time for this project. Several other community members are volunteering their time to do data aggregation. And the grant got started a little bit late

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because it was put in, in late July. It was a line item. And then it got swept away in all the chaos around the Lāhainā fire. And we were informed in September they actually there were no funding for the grant, but that was a bit of a mistake because it wasn't realized it came from the Mayor's Budget and not the Ha'ikū-Pā'ia District budget. So that got straightened out. And then November we were invited to resubmit, to revise timeline and grant proposal, and we did, and that was reviewed in December and we got the go-ahead January 2nd. We immediately went out and have secured the independent contractors, and we are starting our field work this month, February. So we have no wonderful resorts...results to...wonderful or not results to point out to you, the folks, at this point because we're just beginning. But we have been advised by other partners we've reached out to. Like the Department of Aquatic Resources are very excited that someone's testing water quality because they don't test for those kinds of things, and yet that could impact the kind of things that they're seeing in the stream that are more the biological things, the stream creatures and things. And so they have suggested a two-year . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . program would really be more beneficial than a one-year program simply because the data, I guess, carries...it's a longer curve, and you can see more the trends. So if we could kindly be included in this year's budget, we'd be greatly appreciated. And we're humbled to be around so many great projects that have been discussed today. They really are keeping our community future possible. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you...thank you, Ms. de Naie. Tell me again the number of or the...the amount that you were looking for?

MS. DE NAIE: It was a \$40,000 grant. We also raised \$12,000 in direct matching funds, and about \$17,000 in, in-kind contribution --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. DE NAIE: -- of equipment and time.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Maybe that could be something you could speak to Councilmember U'u-Hodgins on district funding. Maybe...that's just an option. Just letting that...letting that out there. But thank you for...

MS. DE NAIE: Yes. Yeah, we...we plan...thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Let me see if any Councilmembers have any questions for you, Ms. de Naie. I don't see any hands up, so thank you once again for testimony.

MS. DE NAIE: Yes.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Teya Penniman, to be followed by Mark Deakos.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Penniman, are you on the call? I see your cam...camera coming

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on...and it came off. Okay. Camera comes on and it comes off. I don't know why it's doing that. It's Teams, it's new.

MS. TANCK: Chair, she is unmuted on our end. If she's not able to join currently, may we suggest that she join using a different browser? It does look like she's dropped off the call, so hopefully she's doing just that. We will keep in mind her name should she rejoin.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Sorry, folks. Working out the bugs. Let's move on to the next testifier, and then we can come back to Ms. Penniman if she comes back on.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Mark Deakos, to be followed by Charlene Schulenberg.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Deakos, are you on the call?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, he is unmuted on our end.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I think the same advice would be maybe try the...try the...the browser and call back I guess. So we can move on to the next testifier.

MS. TANCK: It looks like, Miss...

MS. SCHULENBERG: That's me.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Schulenberg, yes. Feel free, the floor is yours.

MS. SCHULENBERG: Hi. Hi. Aloha, everybody. I wasn't planning on testifying. I was just going to make myself a resource in case anything came up with our...our organization named Pili Koko, who is being supported of course by the County, and we're so grateful. So I too am calling in gratefulness. We are supporting the South Maui Save the Wetlands Hui, and we're super excited because we're...we did get an extension on our last report, and we're about to turn it in, and we are so excited to share what we've learned in these last couple years because this is now our third grant that we're being supported with. And we have done massive amounts of mapping and data gathering and we're...we're just super excited to be able to show some cohesiveness between our work and what we're attempting to...to do. Some of it of course is making our wetlands more functional so that it can absorb more water when we have these crazy floods. And that it can absorb quicker when we have these crazy floods. And we are having crazy floods at all times. When I got involved in this in 2019, I had read a report that we used to have about 200 acres of wetlands that helped to take care of our 50,000 acres of...of watershed in...you know, coming off of Haleakalā. And I read a report that said we have less than 10 percent left of our wetlands. So it depends on how you measure a wetland and what our definitions of wetlands are. And we've been working well with all of that, including getting our protection...our wetlands protection bill done, number 5421. So there's just a lot of good work out there that I'm hearing from everybody. And it's



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exciting to know that all these groups are out there and...and can see the value of taking care of our...our wetlands, our watershed, our water sources, all of the things that are connected. And we're just...we're just excited to share what we've learned and make ourselves available to any of the departments so that we can integrate some of the information that we've got with how that can be helpful to any of the departments. Also just make ourselves available. We're sending so much love to Lāhainā and...and Lāhainā's people and everybody's that's hurting. And we want to make ourselves available as a resource there as well as they might be attempting to take a look at what it would take to restore Moku'ula. And not that the Kihei wetlands are identical at all; it's just what we have learned, there may be some tidbits here and there that would be helpful on things, you know, what not to do, what to do, what's worked for us, what hasn't worked as well, that sort of thing. So just wanted to call and say hi to everybody. Appreciate everything you guys are doing. And . . .(timer sounds). . . and we will of course be asking for more money sometime in the future. So thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. Let me see if we have any questions from the test...or from the Members. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you once again for your testimony, Ms. Schulenberg. Thank you for all your --

MS. SCHULENBERG: Thanks.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- hard work. Staff, will you call the next testifiers --

MS. SCHULENBERG: Thanks.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, we can try to return to Teya Penniman, to be followed by Mark Deakos.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Penniman, are you on the call? Okay.

MS. PENNIMAN: I am. Can you hear me?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Loud and clear. Thank you.

MS. PENNIMAN: Great. Thank you. Thank you. Aloha for that. I think it might be a Safari/Chrome issue on Macs. Another thing to suggest to folks. Aloha, Chair Johnson, Chair Lee, Members of the Committee. Teya Penniman, Interim Manager of Maui Invasive Species Committee testifying on ADEPT-1(3) and (4). Mahalo for this opportunity for...for bringing us all together to share both what we're doing and the needs. I just want to highlight some of MISC and MoMISC on Moloka'i's number of accomplishments. I know Lori Buchanan is available as well. So little fire ants. We've had 19 different infestations on Maui. We had eradicated 7 of those, 4 of them are in a monitoring phase, and 8 are in active treatment. We've had no little fire ants detected at recent surveys of the 175-acre site in Nāhiku. One of the things that I want to emphasize as well is that the work that we do is innovative. You know we don't just

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keep trying the same thing over and over again. We really try to explore and use new approaches, and we've done that with the little fire ant infestation. That's being looked at elsewhere, including on...on O'ahu. Coqui frogs continuing to...to prevent the spread out of Ha'ikū, continuing to eradicate outlier populations. And also innovative, working with our ten different community groups and using funding from DLNR, installation of some barrier fences to help prevent ingress from gulches. And on invasive plants, keeping Miconia out of higher-elevation forests. On track to eradicate pampas grass from East Maui. More than a dozen species eradicated...plant species eradicated on Maui and Moloka'i. On the innovation area, using the herbicide ballistic paintballs for hard-to-reach areas. Looking into the use of drones. And looking at...or working with UH...folks from UH Hilo to do remote mapping...remote sensing imagery to map the entire East Maui Watershed for Miconia, which I think will be a game changer for us. In outreach and education, we...you know, I think you're all familiar with our work, but also emphasizing working with other partners on the Maui mauka conservation awareness training, training guides on the issues that are important to all of us. Honoring our conservation partners. Teaching our keiki and supporting our teachers. And also being a trusted resource for the media. The other thing that I think is often, you know, when you look at...at what our budget...the funds that we request, what they buy, the equipment, the...the salaries, all of that, there is a huge investment that your funding has helped us...a huge infrastructure your funding has helped us create. We have the...we have the...the trucks, we have the sprayers, we have the hoses. All of that we use year after year. And other elements, I don't know if you want to think of them as infrastructure, but the trained staff that are as you've heard from our other partners . . . (timer sounds) . . . are absolutely critical to the work that we do. We have been asked to share our knowledge, our mana'o with other folks. For example on O'ahu we're sending our LFA Coordinator there later this month to talk about the work that we do. In contrast, O'ahu has 40 different infestations of little fire ants. So they're in some serious hurt, and they're looking for help. They also want to know...they...we always laud the support that we have from Maui County. We expect to have members of City and County of Honolulu Council there to hear about your support, to hear directly how much...how important that has been. So mahalo for your continued support, Department of Water Supply, Mayor's Office, you Councilmembers. We would appreciate continued level of funding. We know it's challenging times, so we're happy to work with you however we can. But mahalo for all your support.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much, Ms. Penniman. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you once again for testifying. Thank you for all your hard work. Staff, will you call the...oh wait, we do have a question from Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I wasn't sure if perhaps if Ms. Penniman or--sorry--or Ms. Buchanan from MISC could serve as a resource for our Committee. I know Ms. Buchanan hasn't testified yet, but I also know that today is Ag Day at the capitol, so that's where Ms. Penniman is.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Penniman, are you free to stick around and be a resource?

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MS. PENNIMAN: Yes, I am. Yeah. The day has successfully concluded.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So Members, without...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, that's great. Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Any objections to designating Ms. Penniman as a resource person under Rule 18(A) of the Council?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: With her expertise in MISC and everything. Okay. No objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. All right. So we'll...when we get to deliberations, we'll...we might have some questions for you, Ms. Penniman. Staff, will you call the next testifiers, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, we can return to Mark Deakos, to be followed by Geoff Oxnam.

MR. DEAKOS: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: There he is.

MR. DEAKOS: Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Loud and clear.

MR. DEAKOS: All right. Thank you, Chair Johnson and Councilmembers. Yeah, this Teams is kicking my butt today. I am on a Mac, and I guess the Teams app is not working. So maybe that's the issue. But it seems to be working on the browser. But my name's Mark Deakos, West Maui resident testifying on the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. I'm...and only talk about things like climate action, resiliency, sustainability. We know they're important, but we may struggle on how we can tackle these daunting issues, and our instinct is to compartmentalize all these issues. So our builders focus on building, our tree huggers and coral huggers and watershed folks they come in and fix up the messes from our built environment, and we sort of treat all those separately, but I believe we can do both. We can do the building itself...with proper design, that building can also be the solution to regenerating the native habitats. It can be the solution to reversing the heat island effect. It can be 100 percent stormwater control. It can address the walkability. It can recharge aquifers rather than discharge them. It can be carbon sequestering. A build can make more energy than it draws using only renewables. It can use only non-toxic material so we don't see another \$1 billion toxic cleanup situation. It can divert 95 percent of all waste material from landfills by

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recycling and repurposing materials. Designed to be dismantled at the end of life, or if relocation is needed, it can be reassembled. It can address food security by providing food. They can design in public access to public trusts, equity and affordability. And we know this can be done because it's being done and incentivized in counties across the United States. So we can build and heal at the same time. And the climate action plan has a resilient housing guide. And full disclosure, we did receive a generous grant from the CCRS to produce a guidance document how...on how this regenerative design build can be incentivized in Maui County. And to Ms. King's point, there is detailed ordinance language in this report. It's currently going through peer review, so we look forward to sharing that with you here shortly. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Deakos. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you once again, Mr. Deakos, for all your hard work. Mahalo. Staff, will you call --

MR. DEAKOS: Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Geoff Oxnam, to be followed by Niklos Dudley.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha.

MR. OXNAM: Aloha and thank you very much, Chairman Johnson and Members of the Council, for having me here today. My name is Geoff Oxnam. I am the CEO of American Microgrid Solutions. We are a technical partner with the communities and the County of Maui in developing the resilience...Maui Resilience Hub Implementation Plan. This is a community and County-driven strategy to develop resilience hubs throughout the County. We've been working with stakeholders in now 12 different areas to develop this plan and to the comments of one of the earlier speakers, to make sure that it is an actionable plan. To give the communities and the County the tools they need to be able to implement resilience hubs on their own. Our role is to listen, to learn, to serve, and to provide tools that help the communities do what communities do best, enhance security, resilience, sustainability, and hopefully for all of us, social equity. We've been working on this project with the County for quite some time now and have grown where we're working throughout the...throughout the County, as I said, to 12 different locations. We have held quite a lot of both direct interviews and talk sessions to help gain stakeholder engagement in order to be able to inform this plan. What we're doing now is putting all of that knowledge together into the final design of what these resilience hubs will have and do. And most importantly how to operate them effectively and allow them to become the beginning of a constellation of resilience hubs driven by the communities themselves. So again, mahalo for having us here, for supporting this very important effort. And we look forward to continuing to work with you and with people throughout the County to get these plans developed and implemented.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Oxnam. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing

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none. Thank you once again for your testimony. Appreciate you. Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Niklos Dudley, to be followed by Lori Buchanan.

MR. DUDLEY: Aloha.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha.

MR. DUDLEY: My name's Nik Dudley. I am the Forest Program Manager with the Hawai'i Ag Research Center. I'm here to testify in support of the Watershed Grant Program and also to share with you some of the work that I do with the watershed program. So first of all, I've been a grantee for over a decade. That has allowed me to establish a network of ecoregion-specific koa seed orchards throughout Maui. We have...as these orchards have matured, we're able to provide the components to restore watersheds. And we work with our watershed partners and public and private landowners and managers to deploy disease-resistant koa on Maui's...Maui's watershed for restoration purposes. I have submitted...excuse me, I've submitted written testimony, which I hope you've had the chance to review. And also a highlight of--I don't know exactly--anyway, a highlight of last year's accomplishments. And you know, having said that, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the continued and sustained support. Forestry is a long game, and you can't do koa in a short period of time. And because of that, the...the, you know, the...the insight that previous Councils have had to support this work, it's allowing us to respond to watershed rehabilitation needs as well as fire recovery efforts. And we have provided seed to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and a number of different local organizations. Koa seedlings and 'ōhi'a seedlings for fire recovery in particular in the Kula area. So I wanted to express again my appreciation for your support, and I'm happy to answer any questions. And my program is a little bit different because I don't protect the watershed, but I provide the components to protect the watershed.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. DUDLEY: So thank you very much.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Mr. Dudley, I have a question for you. That...that form you have of your highlights, is it in digital form? I'd like to send it out to the Councilmembers and share with everyone.

MR. DUDLEY: Right. That's certainly...you have my permission.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Can you give it to us by email or something? Or...

MR. DUDLEY: I...

CHAIR JOHNSON: Or is there a way...

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MR. DUDLEY: Axel, is he here?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Yeah. We...we'll...my office will reach out to you and we can...

MR. DUDLEY: So he...I sent...

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DUDLEY: Right. So both should be...anyway, so I'm happy to do that and that's my pleasure. And thank you again --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DUDLEY: -- for your support.

CHAIR JOHNSON: We do have another question from Councilmember Paltin I think. Councilmember Paltin? Or maybe...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I didn't have a question. I just was mentioning that I'm not able...I wasn't able to unmute.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, okay. All right. Well, now we got you able to unmute. So okay, thank you so much --

MR. DUDLEY: Ok we're good.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- Mr. Dudley.

MR. DUDLEY: Okay. Thanks again for your support and...

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Mahalo. Thank you. Okay. If you want to give that to...to you guys? She can...oh, she has. Okay. Great. They have it? Okay. Yeah, that would be wonderful. Thank you. Okay. Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Lori Buchanan, to be followed by the caller with the last four digits 6448.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha, Ms. Buchanan. We can see you, we can't hear you, and it's a little choppy; your video is a little choppy. Oh, now it looks like you're unmuted. And now you're muted. And now you're unmuted.

MS. BUCHANAN: Okay. That's not me.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Sometimes...I...I...now this is Teams now, I'm still learning it. Maybe if you have a *(audio interference)* it sometimes will cut...maybe turn off your camera maybe and see how that works. That's how it used to be. But go ahead and speak. I

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think we can hear you loud and clear when you said that one line. There we go. And now she's muted. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She's unmuted again.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Right. Now you're unmuted. I know it...it's very pixelated and...and choppy. Maybe turn...try turn off your camera and then turn on...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, the camera has nothing to do with the mute button.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The mute keeps going on and on.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, I see...now it's...it's just...Staff, we have her unmuted on our end, right?

MS. TANCK: Chair, she is unmuted on our end. Might we suggest that she call in --

MS. BUCHANAN: Okay.

MS. TANCK: -- if her Wi-Fi is...oh, there we go.

CHAIR JOHNSON: We just heard you say something.

MS. BUCHANAN: Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: There it is.

MS. BUCHANAN: Okay. Thank you. I'm not touching nothing at all. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yes, we can hear you now. Apologize, this is, you know, Teams is giving us a little...

MS. BUCHANAN: I...I had to learn how to use Teams when COVID started, and all I have to say is Teams is the worst and it sucks. I love BlueJeans. Used to be good. Anyway, I...Lori Buchanan, Moloka'i Maui Invasive Species Committee. I wanted to echo and support everything that earlier testifiers like . . .*(inaudible)*. . . and especially Teya Penniman had stated. And I can elaborate more later when the subject matter comes up again. But I wanted to address the CARP, and I wanted to support the CARP and the CCRS because I was a member of CARP. And there were many, many really good people on the CARP, spent a lot of time and giving up their time freely to help develop the CARP along with Alex de Roode and Darla and a lot of staff members that really pushed, pushed, pushed us for a product. And if some people feel that it's more of a report than an actual action plan product, then maybe we need to fund it further

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because we were on a deadline. But I learned a lot. And I wanted to thank Alex de Roode and his team for letting us learn many stuff that I didn't know during the CARP. And I think I was just flabbergasted to find out how big of an impact transportation played on the island of Maui doing the CARP. And we really have to do something if we going do something about climate change. So I support the CARP. I support whatever the Council has to do and the Committee has to do to move that process along, whether adopting it or funding it for further report or action items. So I report...

CHAIR JOHNSON: Why is it...

MS. BUCHANAN: It look like we muted. There. Because it's Teams, and Teams sucks. I so sorry. Oh my goodness. When I heard you guys were moving to Teams, oh man, I wanted to cry. But anyway . . .*(inaudible)*. . . So I do want to support the good works of MISC and MoMISC. And in case you guys didn't hear, MoMISC got a live snake in the beginning of this year, January 8th on the Island of Moloka'i. That's like finding a needle in a haystack, and we got it, guys, we got it. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And that was--thank you--that was a great support system that has been set up all up through the years. And so I support that work. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Buchanan --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- are you free to...yeah? Oh, go ahead, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I was just letting Staff know that was the third item on the agenda. I heard the timer, that's why. She moved from testifying on the first item to the...the third item on the agenda.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So when they do more than one item on the agenda, you get more than three minutes. Yeah. Okay. They're nodding their head they understand. Ms. Buchanan, did you have anything to add?

MS. BUCHANAN: Oh, I'm so sorry for moving on to the item. Councilwoman Rawlins, we so kua'aina, yeah. So yeah, I did...I did want to...besides the CARP, I did want to support actually all of the grantees that I saw on the paper. I saw ten products...ten programs and I wanted to support all of that. And I also strongly supported MISC/MoMISC because of the great work that we continue to do. And I thought Teya did a really quick and, you know, concise over...overview. You know we do so much more, and I just wanted to highlight the finding of the live snake on Moloka'i. It's the first in my career. And the fact that we were successful and the process works and the type of incident command that goes in the back to make that type of catch successful is a testament to the work we do. So thank you very much. Love you guys.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Buchanan, are you free...I love you too. Are you...are you free to be a



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resource for this Committee?

MS. BUCHANAN: Oh, it would be my honor. Thank you so much.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Members, any...oh. Oh, yeah. So Members, without objection, I'll designate Ms. Buchanan as a resource person under Council Rule 18(A) of the...given her expertise in MISC and all her work that she does. Any objections, Members? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Can we move on to the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, it appears the phone caller has dropped off, so our next and final person signed up right now to testify is Makakea [sic] Ane.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Makale'a.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Makale'a, are you on the call? Oh, she just rejoined. Okay.

MS. TANCK: Chair, she is unmuted on our end.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Ms. Makale'a, can you unmute yourself on your end? I see the camera coming on. Yeah. And...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There we go.

CHAIR JOHNSON: There we go.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There we go.

MS. ANE: Aloha. 'O wau 'o Chana Makale'a Dudoit Ane. 'O Climate and Resilience Director for the Living Pono Project. Good to see all of you guys. I...I recognize so many people, and I was just was watching and I wasn't going to testify, but so many good projects that I wanted to just say aloha. And I echo everything else that the watershed people and testifiers had said. One of...the Living Pono Project is the parent company of Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve, so totally support all the efforts that our staff at Pu'u Kukui have done to restore our watersheds and make sure that we have water for our users and residents and 'o'opu and everything. And everybody here understands the importance of water, watershed restoration, and...and fire prevention. So I just wanted to echo what everybody else has been saying on watershed restoration projects. But I also wanted to testify on the CARP. And so I did want to echo what Aunty Lori and the other testifiers were saying that there was a lot of outreach and education and community input that went into developing the CARP. I know Councilmember Rawlins' Office was participating but we also did...and we had, you know, tons of outreach and...and input and one-on-one meetings with a lot of community members. So mahalo

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to all the staff that was, you know, carried on this project after I left the County. And all the different contracts that were executed and set up, it was...we had a Whole Systems solutions contract that had maybe about six different contractors that were all doing community outreach to get input into the CARP. And I believe the last one I saw did have funding recommendations and timelines so that we can actually invest in actual action items to help us get to a resilient Maui County. And what I wanted to testify on was that I really want to emphasize that this is a reiterative process and that it's...yes, this is the first step, maybe it could be better, but of course let's get this on the books so that we can go after funding and fund the projects identified in there, and then expand it and move on and add other projects as we go on and learn more about how to become more resilient as a people. And I very much support investing in indigenous populations and community in...to be resilient. We have to invest in our people and the people that are here and the people that know what the...how to be...be resilient as a community as we did 2,000 years ago. We were resilient once; we can be resilient again. And we have solutions, and the people that are here know what those solutions are. And so if we invest in community, I think we would be well off to being a resilient people. And also one more thing. In our contract, in our RFP that we sent out and the contract that we developed for the CARP, it identified that the...the...one of the projects was that the government should invest in translating all documents into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and that's...the one step to becoming resilient as a people is to keep our...keep our language. . . .(timer sounds). . . So yeah, so just making sure that, that stays in there. And that the plan was supposed to be all translated into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and I want to make sure that that was not dropped off of the contract because that's very important for us to be recognized as a people. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: *(audio interference)* Ane. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Oh, we do have...we have two. So Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Ms. Ane, for your testimony. Nice to see you. Hau'oli mahina 'ōlelo Hawai'i. It is 'Ōlelo Hawai'i month, so mahalo for highlighting that. I think I...I recently heard a quote that the indigenous language is the language of the land because the millennia of kilo. And so in you highlighting that that was an action, you know, item or recommendation in the CARP that it...it...it's important for that reason that it kind of speaks for the 'āina. Is that...am I understanding that section of your testimony, your portion of your testimony?

MS. ANE: Yes, absolutely. And that if there are any excuses about why there is no money to translate it, that was, you know, translate into 'ōlelo Hawai'i, that that was part of the contract and that, that should not be an item that's dropped and...and discarded.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ane. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Let's move on to Councilmember Paltin. *(audio interference)*

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Ane. I just want to clarify. I

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thought...I thought this was brought up a couple times previously, and it was in ma ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i. and I just was wanting to clarify that the final-final one because the last time we brought it up was at the start of this Administration when the Office of Innovation had just gotten a hold of it. And then I believe they were doing some tweaks. And I'm not sure that through the tweaks of the...what was handed off from one Administration to another that, that changes had been translated. Is that...because I think the...the...the original handoff, there was 'ōlelo Hawai'i version.

MS. ANE: To my knowledge the executive summary was translated, and so they had a piece of it, and I know it took a lot of resources because it also takes time to translate specific words that aren't necessarily found in our dictionary back in the day. And so I believe a portion of it was. But in our original contract it said that the resiliency section was supposed to be totally translated, all of it, not just a portion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought it was, but also you mean the final-final draft, all of it, right?

MS. ANE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Ane. Any other *(audio interference)* Members? Seeing none. Thank you once again for all your hard work. Mahalo. Staff, do we have any other testifiers?

MS. MCKINLEY: Yes, Chair. The next testifier and the last person signed up at the moment is Zhantell Lindo. If there's anyone else that would like to testify after her, please raise your hand.

MS. LINDO: And I'm going to start by saying I love you all so I can hear Gabe say that back to me. But anyway --

CHAIR JOHNSON: I love you too.

MS. LINDO: -- that was so cute. Okay. Hi, my name is Zhantell Lindo. I'm testifying as a private citizen on my own time. And I guess I just wanted to jump on here because pretty much everybody that testified belongs to one of the organization being funded, and I thought it was important for a citizen of Maui County to speak up. And also somebody privy to conversations in every area when it comes to funding these types of things. First of all, I want to support the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and continued funding and support for that. I think that's super important. I also want to support the funding for these really important things that we've heard. But most of all I want to voice my concern that if it's not...there's a big difference between something being broken and needing to be changed and something just needing maintenance, you know. Plenty of these organizations have experts that have for years like MoMISC created and...and help maintain healthy environments for us citizens of Maui County.

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And I've heard some underground current conversation talking about the County wanting to take over invasive species. I think that's absolutely ridiculous. I think that we get so much other things that we're great at and that we should do. And I think that MoMISC has proven that they can do the job. If it's something that we disagree or they're not fulfilling something, then let's talk story and let's get them...we went to Hāna and one of the most compelling testimonies I've ever heard was the guys from MoMISC talking about the things that they do and how the community rallied around them. Personally, I see Auntie Lori and the guys over here doing so much for years, not asking for accolades or anything. And so I'm super concerned that when we look at budgetary reviews and we listening to all great ideas and updates that we need to do that we don't try to fix what's not broken. And that we put plenty concentrated effort, that if there is a move to try take away funds or fix things, that there's some kind of data or stats that actually show us what these organizations are not doing and allowing them the chance to do...to do better before we recreate the wheel. So thank you so much. And I just appreciate all the watershed projects and all of what you guys are doing. And I do really love all of you. Aloha.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, Miss...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are you going to tell her you love her, Chair?

CHAIR JOHNSON: I...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: I...I can't...I can't say it to one and not to the other, so I love you as well. Is...do we have any questions that are non-romantic in regards to our testifier? Seeing none. Okay. We're going to move on. Oh, Staff, do we have any other testifiers?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there's no one else currently signed up to testify. If anyone would like to testify at the beginning of the meeting, then please come to the podium or raise your hand on Teams now.

CHAIR JOHNSON: We have one more at the podium.

MR. LAW: Jasee Law. The Hawaiian word of the day is limahana; laborer, worker, or labor. And I just wanted to say aloha awakea to everybody. And aloha pō to our limahana in Washington D.C. And I just had come across my mind, there's a China Town in Washington D.C., so when you guys get over there you can check that out. And Tamara, could you tell all them politicians in Washington about...what the part you read about the Hawaiian Kingdom in the beginning of your Committee meetings? Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you once again for your testimony.

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**. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

CHAIR JOHNSON: Members, I think we're in need of a break. It's 3:15 right now. How about a ten-minute recess? Okay. The...the time is now 3:15. The ADEPT Committee is in recess until 3:25. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 3:16 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 3:29 p.m.**

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the lovefest ADEPT Committee of 3...of 2/8/2024 come back to...our short recess. And I hope we're here and ready to work. I hope you're refreshed. Members, we're going to move on to the agenda.

**ADEPT-1(14): UPDATE OF CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCY PLAN AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE, RESILIENCY, AND SUSTAINABILITY  
CONTRACTS**

CHAIR JOHNSON: ADEPT-1(14), the Update of Climate Action and Resilience Plans and Committee Change...or...and Climate Change, excuse me, Resilience [*sic*], and Sustainability Contracts. In accordance with Rule 7(B) of Rules of Council, the Committee intends to discuss matters relating to update of Climate...update of Climate Action and Resilience [*sic*] Plan and Climate Change, Resilience [*sic*], and Sustainable [*sic*] contracts. No legislative action will be taken. Members, in June 2021, the County executed Contract C7436 with Lotus Engineering and Sustainability LLC for the creation of a County joint climate action and resilience [*sic*] plan. Overseen by the former Office of Mayor, Climate Change and Resiliency and Sustainability Office, the contract produced a draft titled 2022 Status Report, which was sent to the Council on November 2022...20, '22. And received as a County Communication 22-296. This document is in your Granicus file, Members. If you want to look it up, it's in your Granicus. It has been more than a year since the draft was created, but as a County we have yet to adopt an official climate action and resilience [*sic*] plan. In DRIP Committee on May 24th, 2023, we received a report from Mr. Cooper and the Office of Innovation and Sustainability on the plan and timelines to develop a final edition. Members, climate change has been called the single biggest climate...the single biggest health threat facing humanity. It has also been called the challenge of our generation. We must rise to this challenge or our future generations will suffer the consequences of our actions...of our inactions. When we talk about climate action, we're talking about the future of life on this planet. The 5th National Climate Assessment, a Federally-mandated report published last year, tells us that all Pacific island communities are already experiencing climate change impacts, which are cascading and growing in severity. Sea level rise, changing weather patterns, stronger hurricanes, record-breaking temperatures, warming oceans, the Lāhaināluna and...or the Lāhainā and Kula fires as well. A County climate action and resilience [*sic*] plan is our

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opportunity to commit a...to commit to doing the best we can and all we can to reduce our contributions to climate change and mitigate its worst impacts. We are a small community in the grand scheme of things, but we are uniquely positioned to acknowledge the rich heritage and contributions to human...humanity of Kānaka Maoli and indigenous cultures, which wisely practiced ways of existence that maintained natural resources in a sustainable manner. Under this agenda item I've requested an update on the package of climate-related contracts executed by the Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainability Office. A matrix showing these contracts and how they intersect is also available on your Granicus. Members, if there's no objections, I'd like to designate Darla Palmer-Ellingson as a resource person under Council Rule 18(A), given her role as Communications Coordinator for Sustainable Pacific, which was contracted for the creation of the initial Climate Change...Action and Resilient [sic] Plan. And Members, Ms. Palmer-Ellingson--my apologies for the misspelling of Ms. Palmer-Ellingson's name on the...on the meeting agenda. So Staff, if you can please ensure Ms. Palmer-Ellingson's name is correctly reflected for the record. So any objections to making Ms. Palmer-Ellingson a resource?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Members. So let's start with opening comments from the Office of Innovation and Sustainability, Office of the Mayor. Mr. Cooper and Director Mahi, thank you for being here, and the floor is yours.

MR. COOPER: Just so excited. Aloha kākou. 'O Joshua Cooper ko'u inoa. I'm Joshua Cooper. It's an honor to be here. As Pōmaika'i said, a fellow tree hugger donning a new hat in this role. Hopefully we'll all get more feathers doing good things, but we are in unchartered territory. We do have ocean acidification, we do have sea level rise, we do have soaring temperatures, the hottest temperature ever recorded just last year. There is decreasing rainfall as was shared by our many people here on Maui Nui working on this, but also increased extreme rainfall events that we've all witnessed most recently. And what we look at of course on the sixth anniversary and the commemorating of the wildfire in Lāhainā, in Kula we know that this is life. This is so important for us. In the Office of OIS continuing the legacy of what existed prior, we're improving the well-being in our island as one of our main focuses. We're also initiating Maui and Moananuiākea vision into the larger world. And providing accessible information for increasing individual and collective action. Actions accelerated will actually increase our roots and regional resistance. But most importantly we must all work together to secure a safe and sustainable future, and take action at scale and speed that would definitely be necessary the day we work and what we live in. Today, we'll be looking at the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, so we'd like to bring that forward on the slides. Oh, we can also just talk while that's getting done. Okay. So when we look...when we look at the important issues of the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and the focus of what we've been looking at is really thinking of it in three ways. And I really appreciate a lot of the testimony that was said because we're at a point now where it's not having to choose one or the other; it's and, both, and there are many possibilities. The first reasons why all of us are here in this room, it's about love for the 'āina. That's what inspires us,

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that's what people get up every day and do the work that they're doing. All that important aspects of initiatives in our islands, it's because of the love for the 'āina. Number two though as we look at the slides is what it really is about though is also the law. Hawai'i has been a leader in many...

MS. MAHI: Next slide.

MR. COOPER: Next slide. So we can go to the next slide. And the next slide. Oh, there's a cool ripple effect that . . . *(inaudible)*. . . with that. Hawai'i has adopted many environmental laws and has been a leader throughout the US but also the world to really bring the global standards down to the grassroots level. And so we've adopted many laws in the past, and those laws then point out that this is what we must do not because just the love, but it's also the law. And if you look at the next slide as well, we were actually at the forefront talking about 100 percent net electricity 2045, clean energy law. You see Henk Rogers there, you see Francios, you see people that are now going out...not just Blue Planet Foundation but Blue Planet Alliance to encourage other not only counties, not only states like Hawai'i but entire countries in the Pacific and throughout the Caribbean. So we have been a leader, and we must continue on that path for really focusing on a couple of things. Really about people, which is what's most important, our planet, partnership, peace, and kama'aina prosperity. And as we look as well beyond just the law, we also need to understand that is also lower cost. It is the right thing to do. It's definitely, if we look at it, it's science smart, it's environment heart, but it's also great for the bottom line as well, so it's balancing people, planet, and profit all at the same time. Next slide. Maui County is currently working on adopting Climate Action and Resiliency Plan that builds on the State initiatives. And the first version was not adopted, which is why we are now working to build a more community and...centered version of the plan towards adoption. Looking at the organizations and the entities below there shows that rich history. We're looking at the Aloha+ Challenge, which was actually adopted the year before the UN Sustainable Development Goals or otherwise the UN 2030. And as we're in unfortunately an election year, we are still in...I was very fortunate to be part of that when the US withdrew from the Paris Agreement to still make sure that Hawai'i didn't waiver and that we focus on our indigenous knowledge systems and nature-based solutions to move and to shape our island resilience as we go forward. Next slide. And we can go to the next slide since we have so little time. We want to make sure there's enough time for conversation. These are just a few of the initiatives that we're looking at that is moving from a plan to actually projects and programs. And we've been working on reforestation, feral ungulate management, biochar, integrated compost systems, community food forests, resilience hubs, clean energy, and green pathways as one. We also agree that it is important to have a Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. Next slide. But that isn't...we don't have to wait for that. We've been very active in the last year securing a REPI grant for 1.5 million. Looking at reforestation, an entire ahupua'a. Community food forests, EPA greenhouse gas reduction currently being pursued. Resilience hubs, which are going into effect now. NOAA Climate Ready Workforce, which was just submitted. And Hazard Mitigation Grants. And if you look at the next slide, these are just a handful of exciting activities that we're coordinating in the month of February where we're raising CARP.

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And it was raised earlier that we did have the National Climate Assessment authors of Chapter 30 here on Maui this morning, and they'll speak again this evening in a community forum looking at the state of our climate. This is just one way that we're bringing up the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, encouraging people to look. Also COP 28, which previous Members have attended. We're looking forward to the Bridge to Baku when it'll be in COP 29 that'll take place. And then the Wai'ona 'Ōma'oma'o, looking at green drinks. Bringing people together in a more social setting but getting people to look at the important topics brought up here. And we just recently initiated a Maui Nui Book Club with Wailuku Library across the street to be able to have these conversations. When we were last here we opened it for comment, and we didn't receive as many comments as we had hoped. Almost like what we see in the room today. I know all of us who are here believe in promotion and protection of earth rights, and it's a visceral part of our soul and it's a primal part of who we are. And so we're also looking at--the next slide--creating with local partners. Looking at the Maui Institute of Art and Technology to create a more interactive way to connect with community. And being able to not only do the events we described for the month of February but also have a plan where people can participate and connect this way. And looking at new ways of interaction. Looking at the next slide. For CARPAC what we're looking at is definitely adoption before the end of this year. We're focusing on meeting with elements of the society and larger community and bringing together CARPAC meetings later this month on February 28th, March 13th, and April 8th and 9th for a beginning. And as...if everyone has shared, it was ready to go, then they'll very easy for that just to be adopted. And we'll be moving forward with that. But I would say the main aspect that we're looking at is shifting from a brochure to a blueprint and going from plan to projects and programs, which everyone is sharing and talking about today. On the contracts.

CHAIR JOHNSON: We're switching over to Miss...Director Mahi now? Okay.

MS. MAHI: Yeah. Thank you. So in regards to the contracts that are in the...that was brought to us (*audio interference*) CCRS which is now OIS. We have ten contracts altogether...nine contracts altogether. Three of them are through Stantec. Most of them and...and you guys all have a copy of this as well, shows the...most of them are still ongoing. We still are looking at a few more that owes us some reports. We also owe them some payments. We did make...one of them was extended last year at no-cost extension. And what else. And we're going to be...and I think some of them are coming up in --

MR. COOPER: Yes.

MS. MAHI: -- other areas of this presentation.

MR. COOPER: So going back, the one example, building on what Director Mahi just shared--next slide--is the contract that was with American Microgrid Solutions. Yeah. It seems like you just jumped one. But American Microgrid Solutions was one of the contracts that had not been completed, along with many others. So what we did was look at the importance of resiliency hubs, reach out to Geoff, who was on the meeting



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today, connect with him, look at the original contract, and work out and negotiate together a way that we could do a no-cost contract extension but to actually enhance the contracts to be moving as we talk about of that action and making things better. So looking at the next slide. And the next slide. And the next slide. There we go. American Microgrid Solutions. Reaching out to them and talking with them, it was great to get a sense of what had happened, why things were not completed, but more importantly not to dwell on those aspects but to move towards what needs to be done so we can move Maui forward. So we were able to get a six-month contract extension, work with Geoff, and two things that we did add to it was four more sites added as well as links for Federal funds for every recommendation that's in the report. So we think that's a significant shift that it's not just a report, it's not something that will sit as others had said just on a table, but that we can take that and look at as we talked about yesterday in meetings for legislation and look for funds to be able to make sure we can improve the situation and circumstances and be able to start those resiliency hubs. As we go through a couple of slides just quickly to keep time, as I know it's going a lot longer than most people had that our afternoons would be. We appreciate everyone staying. Again to click the slide.

MS. MAHI: One more.

MR. COOPER: One more. And another one. And we can go one more just to...for time's sake. This is what we're talking about here was granted a final six-month, no-cost extension. Working hand in hand with us. We just had one meeting yesterday to finalize certain dates. They're waiting for some information from PUC and looking at certain costs. But what we're doing now is going to rapidly deployable and scalable resiliency hubs projects that are underway. If we look at the next slide, this gives you an image of some of those and what we'll be looking at. We were shifting our resources in OIS from studies to steps. And this is just one of example of what the resilience hub will look like. And that what's important is these are hubs, and Geoff sort of eluded to them; he called them constellation, hub and spoke. It's...it's...it's celestial. It's that guiding space where we gather during times that none of us ever want to experience such as what we faced here together, but more importantly on blue days it really builds trust. It brings people together so that all people can know, meet together, and talk about what matters most and really do things from workforce development, to classes, to cultural practices. It's a space that'll be a gathering place for all of our communities. And if you go to the next slide, you can see the vision of what these are. It's definitely a space where people come. Community gardens, growing, making sure that in horrible circumstance and conditions never again will we lose communication. That we have solar for energy. That we have Starlinks and communication systems. And that it's a space where people can make sure that . . . *(inaudible)*. . . can communicate and be able to speak to everyone that they want to talk to and all be with one another and work together. The next example of the resiliency hubs is...is one example that you can see from a community discussion that we had where people are sharing what is resiliency hubs.

MS. MAHI: Next slide.

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MR. COOPER: To look at what goes...sorry, next slide. There we go. And those are examples of where we're at. We've already begun and met with people in Lāhainā and also done a couple of site visits to Hāna. And we're looking at having those being set up before the end of this fiscal year, and we put our funds in that way. As well as Molokaʻi, and I guess we had just a conversation with the space on Lānaʻi as well. So moving in that space. And now we'll move over to Stantec, and I'll hand it back to Luana.

MS. MAHI: In...sorry. In regards to our contract with Stantec, recently met with Sherry, who has taken over from the previous partner, Nancy, and got information about portions of the contract that was completed regarding data collection and energy stakeholder engagement. (*audio interference*) the current state of the renewable energy deployment is 90 percent completed. And the overview of Maui County's potential renewable energy is 60 percent complete. And potential pathways to 100 percent renewable goal is 20 percent complete. So we still have lots of work to do in that regard. Also design and planning community engagement is 10 percent. Community engagement events have not been started but is planned for April and May of this...no, last year. They will have to restart their community engagement plans. And final report is 30 percent complete. Draft content was compiled into a final report in June 2023.

MR. COOPER: And so what we've been working with is different partners throughout the process in just the one brief year that we've been in existence. Hawai'i State Energy Office, Natural Energy Institute, Public Utilities, Ulupono, Life of the Land, Sierra Club, Integrated Grid Planning Working Group. And we look forward to continue to work together to bring Climate Action Resiliency Plan into legislation that people can take action with, but more importantly to really energize our community to be in the places, to participate, and have many more people in the audience than what see today. And I'll stop there. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Is...oh, is that...are you done, Mr. Cooper?

MR. COOPER: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Well, I want to thank you so much, Mr. Cooper and Director Mahi, for your presentation. Members, I'd like to move on from clarifying questions and...and get into more...we'll save our questions until we get into deliberations if you'll allow it because we are running a little bit behind schedule. So we're going to move...move on to...I'd like to open...invite and have any opening remarks from Darla Palmer-Ellingson. And are you...okay. There she is. The floor is yours.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Okay. Thank you so much. And mahalo, Committee Chair Johnson and Councilmembers. I'm very happy to see the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan being discussed today. Although I've been supporting you for several months as your FEMA intergovernmental relations contact, I'm appearing today as a private citizen because my role previously as a Communications Coordinator with the CARP plan. And I'm trying to edit through my notes because I know we're...we're behind time. The last time the CARP draft was on the agenda at the DRIP Committee in May, it was clear

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Mr. Cooper had a really good focus on outreach and collaborative partnership. So very thankful to the Office of Innovation and Sustainability for that. And one quick note, we broke a record but not a good one. We have surpassed that critical global warming threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius last year in 2023, and January was the hottest year on record so far. So not...not a great start off. One...one thing, you know, that I...I'm anxious to see a revised draft from OIS, and I hope that everyone that was called as a resource could also be included in that process. We really need to focus on transportation and the built environment. That...that's really where our carbon reduction needs to...to come from, so please keep that in mind. Also with our...our current crisis with all of the wildfires around Maui and the devastation in Lāhainā, there's some things that I would hope that OIS would be highly involved in. And one of them is managed retreat. One aspect covered in resiliency planning for CARP is managed retreat due...due to sea level rise. It's really difficult to implement when there's existing structures with useful life not severely threatened. There's often strong resistance from owners; however, in Lāhainā where there are no structures, it may mean that what's drafted in the Lāhainā Community Plan also needs to be updated. And ensure that resiliency objectives are communicated by OIS and considered now in disaster recovery, including immediate development of a managed retreat plan by subject matter experts. Currently, Code and Special Management Area rules prohibit rebuilding without an exemption which...which would take a complicated, expensive, and lengthy review process, especially in the shoreline area. Meaning there's a...there's a window of time here to look at alternatives. Next, I wanted to touch on the vulnerability assessment that was done as part of the...the CARP process. In May, many of you saw an overview in the DRIP Committee of the...of Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Maui County and...however, the...the full document was not provided to the Committee. I know it's 122 pages, and it has a lot of technical details, but it also outlines every vulnerability that came together to cause the Lāhainā devastation, and Central Maui and Upcountry, the...the loss of moisture...ground moisture in our forests in the Olinda fire. It also supports indigenous practices. And for those of you who like to see resources all gathered together in one document, the assessment lists who is working on what aspect of vulnerability and it...and it outlines some gaps. So I'm...I'm hoping that, that document will...will come forward. We also need to move the entire climate plan forward. We understood that the people working on it--it was great to see Alex and Hannah and Geoff today--that there was going to be an implementation phase after this. Of course then the Administration changed and...and that didn't happen. But you know, there's a tremendous amount of work, there's a tremendous amount of consultant work and technical data, and there are some specific goals and action items contained in that plan, which is very well thought out. So...and it does follow the 17 pillars of the UN on...on climate change. It also cross-walked several different plans, including the Aloha Challenge, the State's climate objectives, many plans. So in the same May meeting, Councilmember Hodges [*sic*] asked about Mr. Cooper's climate-related priorities, which were curriculum development, housing, healthcare, regenerative ag, and a farm co-op program. And again, I...I...I'm happy to hear of the update today, and I'd like to see that draft plan. And you know, I understand the wildfire disaster is straining the County's budget, so outside sources of funding for CARP are critical. I...you know, a dedicated entity with...within the Department working on grants is...is

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really needed. In the development of the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, we asked for public comment on the development of the plan at the beginning in late March and then again through public meetings and in the final draft plan in December of 2022. All was really well publicized. We heard in May that there was plans to gather public input from June 15th to July 15, and so I'd like to see--was there outreach?

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

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Oh, okay. So I...you know, that...that's good to know. So the Resiliency Hui and the CARPAC. It was also mentioned that the CARP...OIS would keep the CARP Steering Committee or CARPAC and bring a handful of new stakeholders on and that CARPAC and the Resiliency Hui would meet in June and July. Information on new members and any details from those summer meetings would be helpful. I'm...I'm bringing these things up because of communication. There's...there's a lot of people that worked on the plan and others that...that really want to see these...these things moving forward and...and communicating publicly about them. We could always do better with community engagement. I know how hard that is. So...but there are prioritized research-based actions in the CARP that...that could be acted upon now in addition to what OIS has presented to you. One of the last things I wanted to bring up is climate action and resiliency as a Department. It...it's an...it's an idea that was specified in...in CARPAC that it become a department or a division within a department with its own budget to address climate change, resiliency, and sustainability goals. Staffed by a qualified Chief Resiliency Officer, Deputy Resiliency Officer positions, Energy Commissioner, Environmental Coordinator, Green Building and Resilient Housing Specialist, and Grants and Contract Specialist. The bottom line here is we need to really beef up this effort to make an impact. It was also recommended that CARP be adopted by ordinance so that it has more teeth to actually get things done. And by having it be a department, it...it will have more accountability to the County Council. These recent wildfire disasters are a tragic reminder that we can't afford to lose years of momentum during an Administration change. There was also a frustration from the Council being out of the loop, as we heard Kelly King testify on. And development of the draft CARP, it was intended that such a CCRS department would bridge this gap so that the Council, Administration, and public are collectively working together. CARP was meant as a starting point. It's a living document to be adapted and enhanced and utilized. So, as Mr. Cooper and...and the rest of his team continues the excellent outreach and relationship building, a strengthened climate action and resiliency department working on prioritized research-based actions in the CARP would help us move closer to...to the goals. I...I did want to mention, one thing I...I added while I was listening to everyone testify--I promise this is the last thing--we recently heard yesterday that HECO will not support underground utility installation without a rate increase in Lāhainā. And I think, you know, this is another area where I would really hope OIS could jump in as far as, you know, the resiliency and sustainability. There's so many advantages to this. And there is upfront costs, but there's cost savings over time. Lower energy losses during transmission, decreased costs for maintenance and repairs, longer lifespan for repairs, reducing waste, enhanced safety, minimizing fire risk hazards from downed powerlines that we all saw as people were trying to escape,

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downed powerlines all over the roads and poles. And again, the long-term benefits and cost savings. So I...I wanted to thank OIS for their hard work. You know let's keep in...in better communication with all of the stakeholders. And really, you know, I would just encourage the Council to...to beef up our...our climate action efforts and...and get...get a plan in place. Moloka'i has got two plans. I think they...I think they just completed their CERAP. I...I haven't caught up with them lately, but I know they finished their climate plan already. And we need to do ours as well. I think we're...we'll be the last one in the State I think, but let's get it done. And I...I thank you so much for inviting me here and letting me talk about this. I...I did have one question too. I don't know if you mentioned Stantec's Resilient Housing Guide, the heat map and the ALICE data. Did they get the vulnerability report to be able to complete that?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. We're going to --

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- push to...sorry.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: We'll...we'll ask questions in the deliberations time.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Okay. Great.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Thank you so much.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Palmer-Ellingson. You know, Members, those were the presentations by...by everyone on this item. So we're going to jump into public testimony once again. At this time, if there's anyone wishing to testify on this item, please use the raise-your-hand function and then unmute and identify yourself. And we have some testifiers. So Staff, will you call the testifier up?

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

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there is one person signed up to testify, Alex de Roode.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I think we made Mr. de Roode a resource, did we not? Okay. Mr. de Roode, when we get into deliberations, we can certainly go around and, you know, discuss. This is more for the public testifiers. So Staff, do we have any other public testifier?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there's no one currently signed up to testify. If anyone would like to testify on this item, please come to the podium or raise your hand on Teams now. We can do a last call for testifiers on ADEPT-1(14). Brief countdown. Five...four...three...two...one. Chair, it appears no one else is wishing to testify. Oh,

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pardon me.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Did we make Ms. Buchanan a resource as well? Not on this item?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For...for the third item --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Go ahead, Ms. Buchanan.

MS. BUCHANAN: Thank you. Got to wait for the mic go on. But again, Lori Buchanan. I did testify earlier in support of the CARP. And you heard Darla. I did meet Darla during the process. And again I wanted to say that Darla and her team and Alex really made...really made a really complex...a complex issue...

CHAIR JOHNSON: I'm sorry. Ms. Buchanan, I think you testified on this item already. Is that correct?

MS. BUCHANAN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR JOHNSON: But go ahead, Miss...Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah, I...I think Ms. Buchanan did testify on this item in the beginning of the meeting. And so we cannot have testifiers testify on the same item twice. I...Ms. Buchanan was on the committee, the CARPAC that put this together, and so that would be her expertise in my request for her to be a resource personnel for this item.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yes. Okay. Wonderful. So when we get into deliberations, Ms. Buchanan, we can...we can ask you questions and speak...and speak more freely once we're in deliberations. Right now it's public testimony and we're looking to see if there's anyone else wishing to testify on this item. Members, seeing there's no more individuals wishing to testify, are there any objections to closing oral testimony for ADEPT-1(14)?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Members, I'll now close public testimony for this item.

**. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Now, we can get into deliberations. ADEPT-1(14), Update of Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainable [sic] Contracts. Okay. So our resource personnel and department...departmental representatives are here to answer any further questions you might have regarding the CARP and other past climate change, resiliency and sustainability contracts. I propose three minutes per Councilmember for each round of discussion. And we're going to go down...go down the...the line here. So we'll start with Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci, followed by Committee Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And my question was for Mr. Cooper. So the...the report has been redone and is...you guys are redoing that report, is that what you said? For clarification.

MR. COOPER: No, we didn't redo the report. We're --

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Oh.

MR. COOPER: -- focusing on gathering members that had served on CARPAC and new members of CARPAC to look at it and see what should be added and changed, as well as on the Resiliency Hui side. So we did not change it just to change it. We wanted to focus on community involvement and input before there were any changes to it. So we received this document when we came in, but it wasn't adopted before the end. So we were asking people and that...with many people who used to be on it what was good and bad or what were some of the issues to try to get us...we...we just didn't know why it wasn't adopted. If it...if everybody...with everything was said here today, then it should have been adopted by the CARPAC and it should have been moved forward. But it...in December that didn't happen. So we're just trying to make sure as we're here now to make sure it's as good a document as possible, but more importantly the strategy points that are raised in here focusing on the action is what we've been trying to do already and not just wait for its adoption but getting input in from people and community members.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Cooper, for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Vice-Chair Sinenci. Let's move on to Committee Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Ms. Ellingson asked Mr. Cooper a question. And mahalo to all of our resource personnel for their presentations and opening remarks. Mr. Cooper's mic wasn't on when he responded to the question. I wanted to hear the answer to that question. Was there outreach last July? I think that was the question.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Cooper?

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MR. COOPER: Yes, there was outreach in July, and there were also plans leading up from July through December. A lot of that of course changed when August 8th happened, but we were very much involved out there during that time helping out with points of distribution and doing everything possible in that capacity.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. You answered my question.

MR. COOPER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So what...what do you think would be different with this outreach plan for the end of February through March to April that you...you would...like what do you think would be different results that you didn't get in July?

MR. COOPER: No problem. We believe with the people that we've identified that will be serving that they will be representing indigenous voices that have not been heard as much from what people had shared to us before. And we think they'll be positive additions to that. We also know one of them, Ke'eaumoku, was actually at the hearings that were happening in Lāhainā and passing out the CARP and doing the QR code. So we believe that kind of output is great. And we also just recently secured a website that has more interactive aspects. So we'll be more high touch and high tech in reaching out in both ways throughout these next three months. And the greatest thing possible will be if everybody says it's great and it should be done as it was. Then we'll move forward just like that and go for Earth Day.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...okay. I only have three minutes, so if you can be concise as possible. I appreciate it. So we're leading up to budget. You asked why wasn't this adopted. I...I think you know politics well enough to understand how elections work and transition from one Administration to the next and different Councilmembers coming in and out and things falling through the crack right around the time of election to the end of the year before inauguration, and then organization. So that's why it wasn't adopted. It...it wasn't put onto the schedule, and then the former Administration left and the new Administration came on, and I don't think this was as high of a priority, you know, as other things such as finding where the, you know, passwords to the computers were, as I understand it. And so we're leading up to the next budget in April and it...there's a bunch of recommendations and action items proposed. Is there anything from this plan that's being included and proposed at least from OIS to the Mayor to get into his proposed budget that we'll receive . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . the Council will receive next month?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Cooper?

MR. COOPER: Yeah. The main aspect that I would say first, but there's as many well, is the resiliency hubs, and we took budget from OIS to actually work on two already and going to four. And so we...it's also a priority for the next aspect to focus on all 12 resiliency hubs. That study was not complete when we did come in, but then we were able to do a contract extension to go through all those steps as you're talking about to make sure



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that, that was there. And we're working with Geoff to make sure that study is done and then that the actions are there to go forward. So that is following through from the previous Administration to...with the contract that existed prior to make sure that then that that could be completed.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Cooper. Mahalo, Chair. I'll wait for round two.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sure. Councilmember Paltin, I saw your hand. I'm just going to go down the list if that's all right with you unless there's something you...you need. Let's move on to Chair Lee...or wait, did...I think Chair Lee might have left. She had...she has to get on the road. Then...okay, it goes on to Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I think those are all good things. I just wanted to do a yes and. You know how the resiliency hubs popped up, you know, without any type of communication available, and we continue to work independently with Baja (ph.) and other nonprofits, non-governmental organizations. And from West Maui we're...we're a little bit trying to be independent of the County so that, you know, there's that feeling of being controlled a little bit, you know. But the yes and part is you heard the other day from Director Molina that he's not clear on our managed retreat policy. We have several roads about to fall into the ocean. And this is like 100 percent that County roads falling into the ocean, the Planning Commission shoreline management is 100 percent within the County's purview. And whereas like, you know, PUC and all those other things, community involvement and resiliency hubs are not quite as only the County, you know. So I...I just would like to do a plug, like some of the other things are...are easier done. You know we have entire groups working on microgrid footprints and things like that. You have entire outside groups working on resiliency hubs. But we don't know or we haven't created a County policy on what to do with the roads falling into the ocean, the infrastructure then falling into the ocean, charged sewer...or charged waterlines right next to charged sewer lines that are about to fall into the ocean. And I just was wondering, like that seems like a worthwhile effort to throw all our resources behind because, you know, we could create a policy on the Council, but without that intimate knowledge of Public Works and things like that the Department is working on and...and, you know, Public Works looking to us to create policy. It seems like the Office of Innovation and the CARP could be that bridge that would help us move the needle on managed retreat or adaptation pathways. I'm wondering your thoughts on that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Cooper?

MR. COOPER: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Or Ms. Mahi?

MR. COOPER: Mahalo, Tamara. Appreciate that question. And definitely do agree that we

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can partner, stay warm there. I think it's an excellent example of what we're looking at with bringing people together and having the discussion. Of course managed retreat's come up a lot, especially in your area with looking at what happens and the aspect of...from response to recovery to rebuilding. And it's one of those important aspects of it's a lot of the issues that are connected, right. As we look at everything it's really bringing together the decolonization, decorporatization, decarbonization, decentralization. It's doing it the right way that hadn't been done in the past. And so we look forward to partner . . .(timer sounds). . . with you on that and coordinate from there. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I have some questions. And we'll do a second round, Members. I'm...I'm...I think we're going to be running short on time just to let you know. All right. So Mr. Cooper, I was hoping that the plan we have, timelines, budgets, and implementations in...in the...in the plan, in the CARP itself. So I'm going to ask Ms. Palmer-Ellingson on that, and then I'll come back to you. But what...Ms. Palmer-Ellingson, was that...was the...was the CAP [sic] designed to be created in phases? Is that why there's not like a line of budgets in there?

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: You know I...I...if Alex is still on the line, I think that would be --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: -- a good question for him. It was just my understanding that the implementation would...was the next phase, and it would have had its own timeline attached to that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Let me ask Mr. de Roode. Mr. de Roode, are you on the call?

MR. DE ROODE: I'm here, Chair, yes. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Did you hear my question? Do I...

MR. DE ROODE: I did.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DE ROODE: I did hear your question. So the...one comment is just regarding comments about the lack of specific actions. I would...either people who say that have not read the plan or they have some other motive for saying there's no actions. I would refer the Council to page 125 of the plan where the mitigation strategies and actions start for decarbonization, for GHG emission reductions. And then page 211 where the resiliency and...and climate adaptation actions and strategies begin. Those are very concrete actions. And...and in a plan like this we have...I can't remember the total number, but there are over 100 actions identified. You can't get into the level of specificity of exact timelines, exact budgets for every item or it's a 2,000-page plan that takes five years to...to build out, right. If you look at...and...and, Darla, thank you for all your details

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you brought and your recollection of the process, but we cross-walked this, as it's called, with other plans, including City and County of Honolulu's Climate Action Plan and Resiliency Strategy and others from other municipalities. And ours is very comparable in terms of level of detail that you have, especially with the first Climate Action and Resiliency Plan that the County is producing. From there you can then...what Darla was mentioning about implementation is from there you can start to drill down and get into more of the implementation approaches for each action, but that takes time, that takes speaking to engineers and putting out bids and --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Right.

MR. DE ROODE: -- you know, RFPs and...and things to really understand what are the actual costs going to be, what are all the technical inputs needed to...to implement all of the different actions. So we did our best with the time we had, and I think the level of detail we needed for at least a starting point to get us moving. And we tried to make an estimate in there. You'll see there's some dollar sign figures . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . there where we tried to estimate low-cost and no-cost measures --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Right.

MR. DE ROODE: -- versus mid-cost and...and high-cost. That's kind of where we got --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DE ROODE: -- in the process.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you for that. Members, I just want to remind you we do have other resources that we called...asked, so you can ask other folks besides just the...the departments. All right. Second round. Let's see, Councilmember Sinenci?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. My...my question was answered. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Can I have Member Sinenci's time? Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: If you don't mind staying a little longer, but go for it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: My question is for Ms. Buchanan since we did ask her to stay on as a resource person. But I wanted to ask, so in her initial testimony she talked about all the presentations and education that the CARPAC receives. And Ms. Ellingson brought in different resources and did presentations herself to help to share information prior to crafting or developing the different recommendations so that those that were participating in the CARPAC had a...like a more well-rounded understanding of, you know...in order to prepare them for decision making. Ms.

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Buchanan, will you kind of speak to that a little bit?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Buchanan?

MS. BUCHANAN: Speak...thank you. This is Lori. Speak to the participation part. I'm going to say that I attend meetings all my life, and I have to really give props to Darla and the team for really tackling an extremely complex issue and trying their best to rope a lot of people who were involved from many disciplines. If you probably look, there's probably a list of participants who were involved in the CARPAC on a weekly basis and over quite a significant chunk of time who all volunteered. And I was impressed with that because I mean we sat on...Mahina Martin was there, HECO was there, ranch people were there. Like a really cross-discipline of people were represented. Businesses, culture, and...because I heard culture mentioned earlier. Because we put a lot of culture and me representing invasive species, we did a lot of that in there as well, but it was really balanced. And so I was proud of the work at the end, and I think everybody that participated was proud in the work. And I think we were all disappointed that it didn't get adopted for whatever reasons, part of which you mentioned earlier. So we don't...didn't want to sit on this like Mr. de Roode said. That...because like Tamara said, things are falling in the ocean, and we really need to...to adopt this and get...get moving on trying to, you know, get more to this. And at the same time you can do outreach and education. There's never enough of that too. But thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Buchanan. And then my next question is for Mr. de Roode. So would you speak to why this wasn't adopted toward the end of the year? I mean I kind of spoke to it, but if you want to correct any of my statements, I invite you to.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. de Roode?

MR. DE ROODE: Yeah. Thank you, Councilmember. No corrections to your statements; they're all very accurate in terms of the chaos that ensues with the change in administration. However, so why we got to where we did and not beyond is we wanted to make sure we had enough stakeholder engagement input before we moved it to recommended...recommend it for adoption. The next phase, why it got transmitted to Council was that our hope was that Council would take it up and provide their input. I know Kelly King mentioned not having had a chance to participate more. I know we did provide updates to Council and various committees and in full Council. During the process there were opportunities to participate in public workshops as well. I know you, Councilmember Rawlins, were on the CARPAC, so kind of representing the Council as well while you were there participating. And so the intent there was hand it off to County Council and get input from County Council and as well as any additional community input if the opportunities were...were needed to be created for that. And then move to finalization and adoption of the plan. That was...and that was hopefully going to happen within I'd say the three months, at most six months following when we transmitted it to Council.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So kind of similar to the process with like a community plan where there's like the CPAC, just like you have the CARPAC, you have the Planning Committee. And then it would, you know, go out to the community for feedback, and then the Council could go and, you know, dig through it. And is...do you know if there was still additional funding? Because the...the report itself is like very aesthetically pleasing, very easy to follow and read. . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I think, you know, the...the consultants did a good job in putting it together so that, you know, anyone in the community, you know...it's not just all text, there's...it's...yeah, it's...it's nicely put together. So was there more...so if the Council did have amendments, proposed amendments or suggestions to it, was there additional funding in the contract to incorporate those amendments?

MR. DE ROODE: There was a small amount of funding left, and we likely would have required additional funding, which we had in the CCRS budget and would have allocated it towards that to meet whatever, you know, remaining needs there...there were. So CCRS had a fairly substantial budget while it was in existence and...and we would come back to Council, you know, year after year and say here's...here are our priorities, here's what we want to achieve, and we received a lot of support from all of you during that time. So we would be funding it that way to get it to the finish line. But I think maybe we left that contract, it might have had . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . at most 10,000 or so left in it if my memory serves me.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. de Roode. Mister...mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. I'm going to move on to Councilmember Paltin. So my question is in regards to the hubs. Where did the funding come from the hubs? Or for the hubs. Is it in this year's budget? Can you guys speak on where the funding came for the hubs?

MS. MAHI: Yes, it's coming out of the professional services budget and ear...earmarked *(audio interference)* budget to stand up at least three. And we've been working with several organizations to find out their capacity to take care of this in the next several months.

CHAIR JOHNSON: So it's...is it previous...okay. Okay. I understand now. It's not...it's not previous...

MS. MAHI: It's Fiscal Year '24 funds, yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Got it. Thank you so much for that clarification. Okay. Let's move on to Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I think my question would be for Mr. de Roode. I just was wondering if...if you had...if you could point to any managed retreat...like a policy that we should pursue. We had previously heard Director Molina say that, you know, it's kind of green or energy savings to keep a road in use as long as we possibly

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can. And if we build an alternate road, that takes away from other projects. And I...I guess I was wondering where you guys left off on managed retreat and infrastructure.

MR. DE ROODE: Sure. Thank you --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. de Roode?

MR. DE ROODE: -- for your question. Thank you, Chair. I would point you to the resiliency section of the draft CARP, which does discuss managed retreat, at least as a starting point for development of a policy. The Countywide Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, which Darla also mentioned and is...it was transmitted to Council as well at the end of 2022. That also speaks to managed retreat pretty significantly, both in regards to infrastructure but also cultural considerations, environmental considerations. The...I know the State Office of Planning and Sustainability put out an RFP specific to managed retreat to help inform policy development at the State level. So that may be...I haven't seen the results of that, but that may be an office to reach out to, the Office of Planning and Sustainability with the State.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But it...you don't know of any, like, policy like at 3.2...at 1 foot of sea level rise, County shall, and like how do we even decommission a road that's falling into the ocean. Like nothing concrete, specific as of this time?

MR. DE ROODE: I can't point you to...I mean that would require a little more research because I know that that's actively being looked at by all the counties and the State. One thing I...I...I...I'm fairly certain that Public Works completed a vulnerability assessment. Because at the time, each of the...or not each but several of the major departments, Department of Water Supply, Department of Environmental --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Park.

MR. DE ROODE: -- Management looking at wastewater, and Public Works were conducting vulnerability assessments. Parks and Rec too on beach parks have been doing that. And so that's kind of what the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment tried to do is pull information from all of those different individual vulnerability assessment that the departments undertook. But to get into that level of detail, I...I think looking at the Public Works vulnerability assessment and seeing where they got to in the prior Administration and then . . .(timer sounds) . . .(audio interference)

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much, Councilmember Paltin. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, I see your hand.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. In the CARP it's on page 246, plan for managed retreat and infrastructure relocation.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Duly noted. Thank you for that. Okay. You know, Members, it's 4:30 and we still have two items on the agenda. I'm...my intention now is to defer this item and

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thank everybody for joining us. And then for the other two items we're going to defer those as well because I think if we get into the discussions and the presentations we'll be going really...running really late. And I apologize, but we just seem to run out of time because the topics that are so important. So Members, without any objections the Chair will defer this item. Any...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, go ahead, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So is your plan to recess today's meeting or are you going to...

CHAIR JOHNSON: I plan to defer and then adjourn the meeting, but at some point we...so I do have to do...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Adjourn?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah, I do have to do public...public testimony, go through that, do a little...little bit of discussion and...for the last two items. So a little bit of discussion, public testimony, deferring the items, the last two items.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I wanted to offer you my ESCS Committee spot on February 20th at 1:30.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I think that sounds great. You know I got to look at my calendar but that...maybe that's would be a thing we could do. I would...can I get back to you? Do we have to tell you right now...do I have to decide right now? I...I think I'd like to look at what's going on, on that day.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, that's fine, but I would prefer to recess and then...and then just...I don't...I don't...I want to finish up this --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- this discussion.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not done.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- probably will take that...I'm getting texts here that we can...I'll take it and then we'll just do a recess. Okay. Because having known that now that I can take your time, then that would be...we'll just recess it. Okay. And you're going to have remind me on the date when I get to that. Do we...does that sound good, Staff?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It...it was the GREAT Committee meeting, and I swapped with Member U'u-Hodgins. So you should have that in your schedule to be at a meeting on that...at that time so.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I just got to, you know, yeah, check in with headquarters. What was the date again?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Tuesday February 20th at 1:30.

CHAIR JOHNSON: February 20th at 1:30. Okay. So with this item, Members, any objection to deferring this item?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If we defer this item, can we not talk about it anymore when we reconvene our recessed meeting?

CHAIR JOHNSON: You...you want to just have the whole agenda brought to that other item? Or I mean that other meeting I should say. All three? Just...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I still have questions.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sure. Sure. Any objections...any objections to that, Members? I don't have a problem with that.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sure. It seems like...does everybody else have...and, Staff, we're good with that, yeah? Yeah? Okay. So we won't defer the item. All right. So without...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That would be considered recess, right? We're recessing all three of these items; is that what I'm hearing?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So let's see here. I'm going to go into my recess. One moment. Just a moment. Okay. Members, without objections I'll recess this meeting to 1:30, February 20th using the same TinyURL meeting link. The Council Chamber will continue to be our designated in-person testimony site. Any objections, Member...Members?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Consider this meeting in recess. . . .(gavel). . .



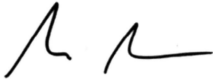
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**RECESS: 4:34 p.m.**

APPROVED:



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GABE JOHNSON, Chair  
Agriculture, Diversification, Environment,  
and Public Transportation Committee

adept:min:240208min:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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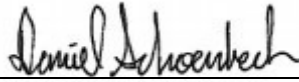
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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 57 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 Kula, Hawai'i



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Daniel Schoenbeck