

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

June 16, 2020

Online Only Via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 1:39 p.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King (out 4:00 p.m.)
Councilmember Alice L. Lee (out 4:00 p.m.)
Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Councilmember Tamara Paltin
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

NON-VOTING MEMBER:

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

STAFF:

Kasie Apo-Takayama, Legislative Analyst
Alison Stewart, Legislative Analyst
Nicole Siegel, Legislative Analyst
David Raatz, Supervising Legislative Attorney
James Forrest, Legislative Attorney
Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Christi Keliikoa, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tamara Paltin
Gina Flammer, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci
Davideane Kama-Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King

ADMIN.:

Moana Lutey, Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Richelle Thomson, First Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Stephanie Chen, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel

OTHERS:

William Greenleaf (EACP-24)
JT Magee (EACP-24)
Albert Perez (EACP-24 & EACP-46)
Lynn Britton (EACP-46)
Phyllis Robinson (EACP-24)
Jenny Pell (EACP-24)
Faith Chase (EACP-24)

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Mike Moran (EACP-24)
Vincent Mina (EACP-24)
Matthew Goetter (EACP-24)
Others (2)

Jennifer Karaca, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Common Ground
Collective
Duane Lammers, Manager, Hana Ranch
Scott Crawford, Board Director, Hana Chapter, Hawaii Farmers Union United

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

CHAIR SINENCI: *... (gavel) ...* Will the Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee please come to order. It's Tuesday, June 16, 2020, and it's 1:39 in the afternoon. I'm Shane Sinenci, the Committee Chair. Welcome, everyone, and thanks for spending the afternoon with us. Today, we have for voting Committee Members we have Committee Vice-Chair, Pro Temp Tasha Kama. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha, Chair. Good afternoon. And Yuki Lei is in the parking lot coming upstairs.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh okay. And is Tamara on? I forgot to check on Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha mai kakou mai Napili.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha. Next, we have Member Kelly Takaya King. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha. Good afternoon. Nice here in Kihei.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good afternoon. Mahalo. Next, we have Councilmember Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, to you, my colleagues, and everyone else from beautiful, sunny paniolo country in Makawao.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha noe. And next we have Council Chair Alice Lee. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hola. Hola, el presidente. That's the name for chairman, el presidente.

CHAIR SINENCI: Hola. Gracias. Okay. Our non-voting Member today we have Council Vice-Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Aloha. Welcome.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha auinala, Chair, and hola from Molokai nui ahina where it's overcast and sunny and rainy. We got it all today. I'm really excited about your meeting today. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for being here. Hola. And so, and of course we always have Member Hokama, he's always welcome to join us at his leisure. Today, I'm not sure, we invited both Ms. Thomson and Ms. Chen, I'm not sure which one is joining us today but our invitations...is our Corporation Counsel...

MS. THOMSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, aloha, Richelle. Thanks for being here. Aloha. Okay. And for our other representatives today we have Jennifer Karaca, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Common Ground Collective. We have Mr. Duane Lammers, the Hana Ranch Manager. We also have Mr. Scott Crawford, the Executive Director for the Hawaii Farmers Union United, the Hana Chapter. For our Staff today we have Ms. Kasie Apo-Takayama, Ms. Alison Stewart, Ms. Nicole Siegel, Ms. Clarita Balala, Ms. Lei Dineen, and Mr. James Forrest. Welcome, everyone. Today, Members, we have two items on the agenda, EACP-46, Establishing the Mālama Maui County Pledge, and EACP-24, Food Security for Maui County. Let's begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or teleconference will be accepted. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans meeting link as noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony should have participated via phone conference by dialing 1-408-915-6290 and entering meeting code 840 546 502 as noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is highly encouraged by sending your comments to eacp.committee@mauicounty.us. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask that you complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your name. If you are testifying on behalf of any organization or a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Please be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting. Chat should not be used to provide testimony or chat with other testifiers. If you are here to provide testimony, please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Participants who wish to view the meeting only without providing testimony, please view a live cablecast on *Akaku* Channel 53. You can also visit mauicounty.us/agendas to access live and archived meeting videos. I remind Committee Members, Administration, and the public to please be patient if we run into any technical difficulties. Members, I'd like to proceed with oral testimony. Staff has been monitoring people joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we'll do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. So, Staff, is there anyone wishing to testify at this time?

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

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MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Chair, we currently have four people signed up to testify. The first is William Greenleaf, to be followed by JT Magee.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Greenleaf, you can now unmute yourself and provide your testimony.

MR. GREENLEAF: Aloha, Chair Sinenci. Can you hear me and see me? Am I doing everything right?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. GREENLEAF: All right, okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: There, I see you.

MR. GREENLEAF: Well, I sent in this written testimony and I'm not going to read that. In my written testimony, I describe the expanded scope of the possibilities of agriculture as a reason for why a department would be something that would really benefit the future of the County of Maui, the citizens, and our food security. What I wanted to say today as we all look through this looking glass to the future to try to understand what we think the new normal is going to be, I would like to add to that discussion today in regard to food security. I think everybody realizes now that the global supply chain has huge weaknesses, whether it's something you need for your computer but more importantly for food. And we know how vulnerable we are out here in the middle of the Pacific, happily vulnerable I would say. And what I'd like to say is that I think Maui can be part of that conversation about the new normal. Instead of how we're going to define our supply chain, I think we should be thinking about becoming the supply chain for other places, and whether that's value added or building products, clothing products. Patagonia has made a deal in Kentucky with farmers, minority farmers actually that don't have large plots of land to grow hemp for them, and they're using that hemp specifically for clothing products. There's all kinds of opportunities. This is the time when we need a department. I've been in ag for quite a while now, I've been on the Ag Working Group, and any time there's a problem for ag, the amount of details that we have to go through to be heard are so all-encompassing it's almost a defeat before you start. It feels like agriculture is a stepchild of the...has become a byproduct in the last few decades. So, I think this is a great time. I applaud you guys for taking it forward. It's a miracle in my mind that this is possible, and I hope you vote for it. That's my testimony. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Greenleaf. And Chair would also like to recognize Member Sugimura. Welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, are there any questions for the testifier, Mr. Greenleaf? We have one question from Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Greenleaf. Mahalo for your testimony. I didn't get to see your written testimony, but I was wondering if perhaps you could just share one or two main things that you're hoping that a County department of ag would do that the State department is not doing?

MR. GREENLEAF: Oh sure, sure. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Just a list, the animal husbandry, aquaculture, forestry, horticulture, biofuels, animal processing facilities, nutrient recycling, seed banking, it's a really long list and I'll send you my list of it. The point is that these jobs all become careers. I've seen for a long time, kids graduating from high school and they get a job down at one of the hotels and they're making some good money but they're just out of high school. So, then when they want to buy a house or have a family, that job doesn't look so good, it doesn't really support what they need, and it puts all us in a...all the families are in a crisis losing their children because it just doesn't work for them. So, I see agriculture as the future for careers, not jobs. And it really needs County help. If we had that 4 million that was going into the tourist bureau plus the other 6 or 7 Oahu gave us, imagine spending \$10 million a year for ten years on...and I know that resonates with a lot of you. And as far as what the Department of Health does on Oahu, they get 4 percent of the State budget...I'm sorry, .4 percent. They can't even really fund enough people to truly investigate all the agriculture products that are brought on to Maui. That's why we get these fire ants and other things that are...like coqui frogs and whatnot. We are vulnerable if we continue to wait for the State to help us. This is a...we're rural, they're cosmopolitan, we have different interests, different opportunities, so I think it's quite different.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Greenleaf.

MR. GREENLEAF: Is that okay?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo.

MR. GREENLEAF: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, I can't see all of you so if you have a question for Mr. Greenleaf, just go ahead and chime in.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair? Okay, Chair, this is Kelly King.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. I just wanted to clarify for Mr. Greenleaf on that, the issue of the department of agriculture for the County is not on...is that on the agenda today? 'Cause if it is, I'm looking at the wrong agenda.

CHAIR SINENCI: No, it's food security.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, so it's part of the food security discussion?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Okay, great. So, thanks for being here, Bill, always great to see you. I just wanted to ask you if you've had any involvement in the last year or so or maybe two years with the State Department of Agriculture. Personally, I don't even know if I could tell you who was the head of that after Scott left so just wondered if you had any interaction with them?

MR. GREENLEAF: No, I haven't. And even when Scott was chair, reaching him even though I knew him personally, it was not easy. And no, I've never seen the State do anything for agriculture here on Maui personally.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, thank you.

MR. GREENLEAF: You're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member King. Any others? Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Greenleaf, for being here today.

MR. GREENLEAF: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Apo-Takayama?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is JT Magee to be followed by Albert Perez. And to JT Magee, please inform the Committee which agenda item you'll be testifying on and your organizational affiliation if any.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mister...

MR. MAGEE: Hello. I was just kind of joining the meeting more of learning everything about what's being presented rather than having an actual voice in the topic. I guess in a way I'm kind of green to politics and agriculture as well. I've only been on the island for a couple years, and I've been in the service industry for the last 10-11 years and just kind of piggybacking on Mr. Greenleaf's point about going to hotel work or just kind of any service industry in that regard. It's good for the time being, but I...it's hard to have full sustainability for an area like Maui where we can...I see so much potential and growth with the opportunity for agriculture and especially the topic today with food security. So, I'm not really affiliated with any companies or careers myself, I'm just, I guess I'm just a citizen who just kind of wants to learn more and kind of hope to be on the aspect of learning about it. That's pretty much it. Kind of how I came about learning about this is I'm in the process of trying to kind of get my own little filmmaking and film editing business going off the ground, and my dad came up with an idea for me to try and create a short commercial. And so, I was trying to think of something that would be useful for Maui, and I just started looking at

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agriculture and hemp and using that hemp as a textile growth. And so, the company I was kind of coming up with was using products that were grown and made on Maui, that would then be considered both Maui and eventually Hawaiian-made products that can give people jobs in the textile realm and just kind of go from there. I mean that was just an idea, it's not actually a business that I'm really that going to be able to make. But it's just more of me...this is kind of the process of kind of like making that sort of video is just kind of sitting in on these types of meetings to kind of understand what our local Council and then in retrospect or not retrospect, but other addendum or I can't find the words, the government rather is going to be pursuing these. So, I'm just kind of more of a silent listener and appreciative of the hard work that you guys are putting in to making this happen. So, that's about it.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, JT, for your testimony today. We appreciate your presence here.

MR. MAGEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any questions for Mr. Magee? I can't see everybody so...okay, thanks for your testimony.

MR. MAGEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Apo-Takayama, can you call the next testifier?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Albert Perez to be followed by Jenny Pell.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Perez?

MR. PEREZ: Aloha mai kakou from . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Kula. Such variability we have on our island. I hope you're all well today. I'm really glad that this agenda was put together. First of all, I want to testify on EACP number 46. I just want to say I totally support having a Mālama Maui County pledge. Most visitors, they want to be respectful when they get here, but a lot of them don't know what to do and they need guidance on what is pono when they get here. So, I believe that Mālama Maui County pledge would provide that guidance. So, I fully support that initiative. And then I'd like to move on to EACP-24. This is a much more serious topic. As you all know, Maui County has had some recent threats to its food lifeline and three that I've heard of, I don't know if you've heard of all of these but obviously you've all heard that Young Brothers has raised the prospect of cutting off or reducing service unless they get a \$25 million bailout. On the news the other day, they had that the food packing workers I think in California have been getting COVID-19, because they're working elbow-to-elbow in packing plants. That's a weak link in our chain right now. And then I also heard a few weeks ago, fortunately this didn't come true, but I was hearing that the longshoremen on the West Coast had been reluctant to come to work because of the risk of getting COVID-19. So, some of these were predictable, some of these were not, but the bottom line is we are vulnerable. And I think that we need to look at this

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situation in terms of it's a clear case of market failure. We're actually in a situation which is possible that our County could be out of food in less than a week, and this is clear justification for government intervention. Talk of boosting local agriculture almost always runs into the same barrier that local produce costs more so people will buy whatever is cheapest which turns out to be produce from the continental US. Maui County as well as the State of Hawaii should be subsidizing locally grown produce by providing a discount at the register such as is currently done with the SNAP program. My understanding is they provide a 50 percent discount for local produce. Any amount will help but if the subsidy is high enough, people will choose locally grown produce and our local farmers will begin to thrive. When their businesses become profitable and they can pay workers a decent wage, they'll be able to hire farmworkers at good wages to meet the demand for local food. And another example of a subsidy that was very successful and helped our aina was the whole solar electric industry when the State was giving tax credits for that. It really boosted the industry, and as I recall 'cause I was in that industry, it helped us get through a construction slump at that time. So, the subsidy would provide a clear public benefit in terms of greater food security in the event of disruption in our food supply chain. It also has the beauty of letting farmers concentrate on farming. The farmers get paid, the merchants get reimbursed, and the consumers get local food. As far as government intervention programs go, it's a very market-oriented type of intervention. We'll still let market forces work to sort out which producers are most efficient and provide the best value to customers, and it will clearly help to even out the playing field for our local food producers. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Perez. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you, Albert, for your testimony today.

MR. PEREZ: Okay. Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Apo-Takayama --

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: --please call the next testifier.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: The next testifier...sorry. The next testifier is Jenny Pell to be followed by the testifier logged in as Lynn.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Pell. Please unmute yourself. Jenny Pell?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Chair, it looks like she may have dropped off the call just now.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, we can come back to her.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is logged in as Lynn, to be followed by Phyllis Robinson.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Lynn.

MS. BRITTON: Aloha, everybody.

CHAIR SINENCI: We can hear you.

MS. BRITTON: Oh good. I wasn't planning on testifying today, I did submit written testimony. MVA is very supportive of the Mālama Maui...Pledge, Mālama Maui Pledge, and I'm very interested in hearing this discussion on food security and whatever we can do to support our local agricultural industry. So, just listening and appreciate all you do. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Lynn, and thanks for joining us this afternoon. Ms. Apo...oh, we have a question from Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just wanted to just verify that this is Lynn Britton from Maalaea Village Association.

CHAIR SINENCI: We recognize her voice.

MS. BRITTON: Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I recognize your voice. Thanks for being here, Lynn.

MS. BRITTON: And I was listening yesterday, but I was in and out trying to get a washer/dryer installed and everything else. So, thank you for...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. BRITTON: I am watching. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thanks, Lynn.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. BRITTON: Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Apo-Takayama, our next testifier please?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Phyllis Robinson.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Robinson.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Phyllis, you're muted.

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MS. ROBINSON: Is that better?

CHAIR SINENCI: We can hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We can't see you.

MS. ROBINSON: You can hear me now?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We can hear you --

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --but now we can't see you.

MS. ROBINSON: Well, that's interesting because I actually...is that better?

CHAIR SINENCI: There you go. You have three minutes.

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, you can include this technology problem in the three minutes, it's fine. I'm so sorry. Aloha to all. I'm glad to be here, honored actually to be able to talk about food security from the standpoint of growing new farmers. It's imperative. The vibrancy and passion that's out in our community and in our County on learning to farm is really to be a force to be reckoned with, and we have to think about that as we move forward in food security, because they're anxious to grow food, they're anxious to up their production. And so, we're excited about this possible proposal. I'm sorry that I'm not completely up on this, but I thought we were going to be talking about the new department of agriculture and so my testimony is about that. So, maybe I'm needing to drop off because I don't have prepared testimony.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, and just as a reminder, Ms. Robinson, next week in the GET the item will be held. Nine o'clock --

MS. ROBINSON: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: --on the 23rd.

MS. ROBINSON: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

MS. ROBINSON: So, I wish you all well. I think we need to grow new farmers and keep growing new farmers.

CHAIR SINENCI: Hold on, we had a question from Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I thought --

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MS. ROBINSON: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --Food Security for Maui County included the discussion on the County department of ag. So, I would like to hear what Ms. Robinson has to say about that if that's okay?

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. If there are no objections, you can proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objections.

MS. ROBINSON: So, I have thought long and hard about this need for a department of agriculture in our County. And I think the discussions about food security are directly related to that. We have to start really focusing on not only our organization's attention but our County, our State, our attention needs to be and continue to be on food security. And so, the amount of management that that takes may require that the County have a department of agriculture, not just an agricultural specialist under the Office of Economic Development. So, that being said, in managing the facets of food security I think is a very good opening role for the department of agriculture. And I'm going to end my testimony there and welcome questions.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Robinson. Did we...Member King, did you want to ask a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, Chair, I was just going to suggest the same thing that Member Rawlins-Fernandez suggested that, you know, your, whatever your testimony is about the department is relative to food security. So, thank you for your --

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --testimony. Thank you for your support of that idea.

MS. ROBINSON: Of course. Of course.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Robinson, for your testimony today. Ms. Apo...

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you all. I think Keani's --

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

MS. ROBINSON: --waving her hand.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I also see Pro Temp Kama raising her hand and she's a voting Member so I'm happy to wait until after.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Oh okay. Yeah, sorry, I can't see everyone. So, Pro Temp and Committee Vice-Chair Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, thank you. Yeah. See it's hard to tell who you see or as the Chair who you see and who you don't see unless somebody else tells you, somebody else is saying. Okay, but thank you. I'm in agreement, I think we need more farmers and I think we need to do all that we...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're muted --

CHAIR SINENCI: You're muted.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Tasha, you're muted. You muted yourself.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I don't know, I don't know what happened. I think I get excited and when I get excited my table moves and all of this stuff happens, you know, and it's like oh my gosh, I inadvertently muted myself. So okay, so I better step back. I shouldn't get too close I guess. But I'm really excited about that because, you know, my whole sense is that this culture comes from an agriculture called ag, right? I mean we didn't have...we didn't eat chickens and pig and cow until after it was introduced, but prior to that, it was the mountain and the ocean. And to know that people are now starting to understand that we can do this again. So, I wanted to ask, you know, when I think about establishing a new department, I just think about structure and I think about how long it takes for stuff like to that happen. And I don't want to discourage anybody, but I also think that I just want to do the stuff and then, you know, build the blocks later. So, in terms of that department of ag, how do you see that happening? I mean do you think that's going to happen like overnight or maybe in a year or two or five or ten? Because I don't know what it takes to start a department, but I sure do like the work that will go into that and I would like to see that happen sooner than later.

MS. ROBINSON: Was that a question for me, Tasha, or for...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, for you. In terms of time and length --

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah. The --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: --to establish...

MS. ROBINSON: --time to build a department, well, it isn't an overnight thing, it takes time. And I do believe that it can be carefully planned. I think that we can have a special taskforce that is similar to the, perhaps the Ag Working Group that works to bring in the community to help create this department so that you have the voice of the community in its formation. So, I think that, you know, who chooses those, I perhaps

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leave that up to you all and your wisdom. But I do believe that we need a taskforce to get that up and running and as soon as possible, I think. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Robinson. And for Member Kama, so the bill that we're looking at will be posted in the GET for next week Tuesday and so --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: --more details...if people want to go in and look at some of the details, you can access the Granicus and look at the bill.

MS. ROBINSON: Wonderful. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you --

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. We have one more...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: --Phyllis.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. We have one more question from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thank you, Chair. I haven't had a chance to look at the bill yet, but I notice that a bunch of testifiers are referencing the department of agriculture. And I just was wondering too, if when they come on Tuesday, they would think about the structure. Like, you know, if you look at our other departments, the structure and the scope, if you look at our other departments, I think our smallest department is Department of Transportation, and our biggest one would be Department of Parks and Recreation. And like looking at that type of thing like is there going to be a deputy director, would we need like a personnel officer, and what would be the scope? Is it only food security or is it also like invasive species and, you know, like animal husbandry closed loop type of thing . . . *(inaudible)*. . . styles and like that? So, just not to be answered today and not specifically for Ms. Robinson, but those are some of the questions I have for Tuesday just because of people speaking about it.

MS. ROBINSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Wonderful.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Mahalo. Thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Possibilities are endless. Thank you. Ms. Apo-Takayama?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura has a question.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: I believe...oh.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez had a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I do after Member Sugimura since she's a voting Member of the Committee.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Ms. Robinson, good to see you. And as you talk about growing farmers, I know that in your professional expertise, I just wondered all the farmers that you mentored, how many of them became farmers where they are a full, okay, like a business? Did you ever take that data?

MS. ROBINSON: Yes. I think that it, we've had a fair amount of time for reflection during this COVID period, to really look at what it takes time-wise to get up to the level that you're talking about. I would say that many of our farmers...our farmer apprentices are working on other farms right now that are high production farms. And so, if that is, could be put toward what would be the numbers then yes. I would say that there are a few of our farmers who have graduated that are on their own getting ready to launch commercially. So, it takes...what we're learning is that it takes time to build to that place where you are a confident farmer. And we have to be understanding of that as we go forward. And so, we have to honor that. And there's no lack of sincerity in the efforts of these apprentices. You know, we just have to be where they are and move them to the place where they want to be.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member Sugimura. And just to correct myself, so the bill might be posted by tomorrow, not today.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, good.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you had a question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I believe Member King has a question.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thanks, Keani. Yeah, I just remembered my question from . . .(inaudible) . . . So, Phyllis, what I wanted to ask you is like pertinent to the food security issue and the potential department of ag. Has there ever been a goal for farmers as far as how many we think we need in the County? You know I mean at what point do we reach a critical mass? 'Cause I think we're far from there. And also have you been able to through your program 'cause it's been about four, four or five years now, lower the average age of...I mean we always used to talk about how the average age of a farmer in the State is 60 and was worried that people wanted to retire, you know. So, you know, just being married to someone who's 62 who just started farming a few years ago, I don't know if he's raising that average or what, but I know that was one of the goals at one time was to try to get more young people in because they have, you know, they have more years ahead of them. And so, do you think that that's what we're doing with these programs? Are we like making a dent in that? And should that be the basis...

MS. ROBINSON: Well, what's been interesting for us is that we find that our age range for our apprentices is extensive. I mean we had an 80-year-old man part of a couple and then we've also had 21-year olds. So, yes, the passion for farming runs the gamut. So, the age factor may now no longer be relevant, but we do need to bring in labor, skilled labor to be able to help the aging farmer and be able to allow them to oversee their farm operation without having to do the labor. And that was the purpose of a family farm was that you had the kids who were taking over and the older person. But the dynamics of that may still exist but I don't know, not so much. I think that we're seeing a different type of farming operation and a different type of farmer. All these things need to be looked at. And you asked me the question of how many farmers do we think that we need to supplant the loss of other farmers...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It was more of a...it was...I mean I don't expect you to have a number, but I'm just thinking at some point, you know, maybe that's the relevance of a department too, is to come up with those goals and try to figure out when is critical mass...how many more programs do we need like today and how many more programs, you know, at what point can we start leveling off on, you know, the investment in that, so. Yeah, I don't know if you had thought about that.

MS. ROBINSON: That's all a wonderful way in which a departmental structure can include statistics and collection of data. I think it's really important to have a skilled person that has that as their job. Yes. Because we have to keep track and we have to report back and we have to be accountable all the time to the people of Maui and also, you know, to the people like yourselves who are stewards, you know, you're carrying the torch for the rest of us. So, I really appreciate all of your time and I'm very excited that we may have a department of agriculture in the County of Maui. And if there's anything I can do to help with that, let me know. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Phyllis. Thanks for being here.

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CHAIR SINENCI: No, it's on the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Mahalo for your testimony. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Robinson?

MS. ROBINSON: Oh. Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just really quick, if you could just name one thing that you think that a Maui County department of ag would do that the State Department of Ag is not doing?

MS. ROBINSON: Well, I really believe in farming as a grassroots effort, and I think that having a County entity creates that intimacy that is necessary for us to be in touch with the land, the place where we are, the place that we inhabit, and the people that see this day by day. So, I believe that it's important for us to have a sense that we are in it together as a community, and, you know, and the State is wonderful. Sharon Hurd is my heroine. She provides so much information about grants for farmers...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Robinson. I was trying to keep it short.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Robinson --

MS. ROBINSON: Sorry.

CHAIR SINENCI: --for your testimony. Ms. Apo-Takayama? Please call the next testifier.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. We have six more testifiers. The next testifier is Jenny Pell calling in from the number with the last four digits 0496, to be followed by Faith Chase.

MS. PELL: Aloha, this is Jenny.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, we can hear you.

MS. PELL: Great. Thanks so much for having me on to testify. I want to come out strongly in favor of having a Maui County department of agriculture. I know we really need now to know exactly what will it take to feed Maui in the short, medium, and long term in the face of a diversifying economy, a diminished tourism economy, an economic downturn, a climate unstable future, and a stabilizing local citizenry that need skills and we need to embed those skills in our community. And we need leadership at the County level to make that happen. Having salaried staff at the

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County level to address our County farming issues all the way from large livestock farming all the way to backyard gardens, all are part of the food security equation. We need farmers to be able to have access to land, to have a real, earn a real living wage. We need to have lineages of skilled people that are able to carry forward these types of agroforestry, watershed-protected farming practices, reef-protected farming practices. And that leadership needs to come from the County. And to, just to go straight to the question about how do we differentiate what the County does versus the State, the State ag budget is miniscule compared to what we need to make this go forward. To be able to have our own budget for our own farming needs on all the different scales would make a huge difference for Maui County. I think it would be a great cultural piece for Maui. We have so many diverse cultures here that have so many different palates, so many different foods on their plates. We want to be able to have valued-added products. We want to have a robust export economy that's profitable. There's all kinds of things we need that the department of agriculture would supply. And I just think that it's just so important to be able to, you know, have that as its own department with decision-making authority. And I think the people that staff that need to have the requisite skills. They need to have, you know, a degree in agriculture. They need to have some farming experience. They need to have outreach capabilities. They need to understand the needs of farmers at different scales. I also think that in the tourism equation moving forward, being able to have Maui as a food culture that attracts people to come here that are going to be supporting those farmers and those foods and all of the delicious things that come out of here, that's part of working with the Visitors Bureau with their new charter. That let's find a way to really leverage our farming equation into financial success from the chef level all the way down. So, I think it's a great idea. I've worked in other counties in other parts of the country where we have on-boarded a food czar, we did that in Seattle. It made the absolute difference in terms of having a clearinghouse of information for people, what does agriculture mean, what kinds of benefits am entitled to, how do I get my water rates for ag, what does it mean to submit a farm plan, and how do I get my tax break, how do I prove up. All of these things need to come through one central clearinghouse and the department of ag at the County level would do that. Thanks so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Pell, for your testimony. Members, any questions for the testifier? I don't see anyone.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: Member King? Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Thank you. I don't know, Jenny, are you on by video? I don't see you. I just...

MS. PELL: I could not get the BlueJeans to work on the video today, it kept cutting out so I came in by phone.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: That happens sometimes, sometimes it happens to us too. No, I just wondered, Chair, if we could ask Ms. Pell to be on for the food security discussion as well since she has some experience with the organization she started here and in other areas. I like the idea of having that experience with the food czar.

CHAIR SINENCI: Sure. If there are --

MS. PELL: Yeah. Yes.

CHAIR SINENCI: --no objections, Miss Pell...

MS. PELL: Again, I will also just...I'm definitely available. I also will share that the food czar position that we created, I have to go look it up but another organization offered to fund half the salary if the county would fund the other half, and that's how we advanced that position for that individual and it was a big success.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Awesome.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Pell. Thank you, Member Lee...Member King. Ms. Apo-Takayama?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We look alike.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Faith Chase to be followed by Mike Moran.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Chase, can you hear us?

MS. CHASE: Aloha...yeah. Hi. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, we can hear you.

MS. CHASE: Oh, great. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Committee Members. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I understand that the department of agriculture for Maui is on next week's calendar. I'm going to take this opportunity 'cause I'm not sure if I'm going to be available so I'd like to speak to that really quickly. Section 8-18, number 3...number 1, I just want to say I really appreciate the word "sustainable" being used. Develop a sustainable regional. I know there was a tug-o-war over that word, because other big entities like Monsanto kind of robbed that. But, you know, regenerative and sustainable, it doesn't matter, so I really appreciate that strong statement in the forefront. Number two, you must include the MEO farmworker and ranch worker program. Your study a few years ago expressed this ease of entry point that has been underused within that framework that is Federal funded. You need to hire a farm worker or a ranch worker only 25 hours within 2 years. That's only...at minimum wage that's only \$252.50. If you hire a farm worker or a ranch worker for 25 hours on a ranch or a farm, after they have that proof, if the farm or the ranch is ill-equipped

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and can't do payroll and can't get to the next step because of obvious reasons, agriculture makes it hard, there is Federal funding that will carry those ranch workers and that farmworker for almost a year. We're talking about clothes, boots, weed eater, CDL license, gas, rent, deposit, all kinds of stuff. This is an underused area. MEO workers are aware of that, but you need to nudge them for that work. Number three, the State cannot do the outreach that the County can do. Absolutely not. I can attest to that. I out-of-pocket went to go testify at the state of agriculture, I don't feel like our, even our Representative without naming names is doing the right job of getting the outreach done for the County. So, to answer that question that Councilmember Rawlins asked, absolutely, that is a good point about it. We can't fly to Oahu to go tell them what our rural needs are. Number 4(A), the programs that ensure sustainable utilization, I love that. Ensuring the availability of qualified and, you know, employees or staffing that's huge. I think in that component you need to make sure you include a subsection of water if it's not there already. I know it's going to be published but it can be amended. You need to have water in that space. Six R is huge, I think it deserves its own section. Working with law enforcement to avoid farm theft and land issues, that actually needs to be reworded to include theft of land, not just, you know, like food producing things. I want to applaud the Section 2, Charter Section 10-4 where you use the strong language. You know good luck on that, the empowering, you know, the people. I don't know, creating ethical standards, good luck. I just, I'm happy it's there, it's very nouveau, it's very avant-garde, it's a little punchy. It needs expansion because, you know, that comes down to regulations and policies, but I'm glad it's there. And then to echo Paltin, what she said about appreciate, you know, wanting to have structure and scope of this department, I think that's huge too. We need more details about that. And just don't forget --

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Chase.

MS. CHASE: --about the kalo farmers. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any questions for Ms. Chase? Seeing none, thank you for being here today. Ms. Apo-Takayama, can you call the next testifier please?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Mike Moran to be followed by Travis Gylstrand.

MR. MORAN: Aloha, Chair Sinenci.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Mr. Moran.

MR. MORAN: Mike Moran for the Kihei Community Association. Just very briefly, we want to commend you for EACP-24, food security. It seems for decades we have heard that oh, there's only a week's worth of food on here, we have to do something, and then it seems like nothing ever gets done. There's no attempt to rectify it. So, we commend you and this progressive Council for saying maybe this was a wake-up call, this

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worldwide pandemic. Nothing else ever seemed to be the wake-up call. You know, hurricanes or tsunami warnings, but now maybe this is the one that we're saying yes, we can't go on like this, let's not wait for a catastrophe where we are, a whole community is out of food. So, that's all, just wanted to commend you for taking it on. It's certainly time and you guys are the guys that can do it. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Moran. Members...seeing none, thank you and be safe there. Ms. Apo-Takayama...

MR. MORAN: Thank you, sir. You too. Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Travis Gyldstrand to be followed by Vincent Mina.

CHAIR SINENCI: Travis, are you there?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Chair, I believe Travis just dropped off the call. The next testifier is Vincent Mina, to be followed by our final testifier Matthew Goetter.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Mina...

MR. MINA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: We can hear you.

MR. MINA: Yeah, can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. MINA: Sorry, the video is not working. But I'm really happy that you're bringing this forward. And I sit on the State Board of Agriculture, and it's interesting to hear people's comments about what they perceive the State Board of Agriculture actually does and how it relates to Maui. You know, I've been a farmer now for 27 years, making a living at farming and a family farm. And there's a lot of people good intentions that I kind of use the analogy of a football game, you know, they're in the stands pointing the fingers at what the quarterback should be doing and it just is, you know, everybody has an opinion about agriculture. And right on, I'm glad that agriculture is in the forefront of the conversation. I think, I do think though we need to have a department of agriculture on Maui to best serve putting in the infrastructural needs that is determinant of an agricultural system that actually could function as such in providing food security for the islands. If we were to take an assessment right now of all the food that's on the island, I think we would be really surprised to know that there is a whole lot of food on the island right now, especially in animal protein if managed properly and be able to process properly. And the ability

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to grow food on this island is shown over and over again. So, it's a matter of having a department that's focused in on agriculture in the spirit of all the infrastructure that's required I think would be really a benefit to the island.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Mina, for your comments today. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, and just as a reminder, next week Tuesday, June 23rd we'll have more of an in-depth conversation then. Thank you.

MR. MINA: Thank you. Aloha, everybody.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha. Ms. Apo-Takayama?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The last person signed up to testify is Matthew Goetter.

CHAIR SINENCI: Matthew...

MR. GOETTER: Hi, everybody. Aloha. Hopefully you can hear me. My name is Matthew Goetter. I recognize some of you. I was a former waiter at the Kula Bistro and The Mill House restaurant. I also just started a farm. I was one of Phyllis' apprentices last year so I've been blessed to be working with Uncle Bobby in the, down there in the old sugar cane fields of our island. And I'm working with The Seeking Root farm, that's the business I founded. We do a lot of worm composting, food waste recycling, and I think it'd be huge to have a department of ag on this island. I also am hugely in favor of the proposal to pledge to Mālama Maui and have the tourists be educated in some way. I think there's, you know, at least there used to be an incredible amount of food and people coming to this island every day and having no idea what to do, what to eat, wanting to eat local food but not knowing where it goes, not caring about where it goes. As someone who's very much concerned with where our food goes and how that becomes the next cycle of soil, I can't even tell you how many people have been asking me for compost and soil to help get their gardens started right now to get their food producing on their own land. I think it would be so helpful if the County helps get that flowing and going together to the right place, because if we properly manage our waste flow and our food waste, then we also are able to build soil and build Maui. And that's what's going to provide our true, lasting food security here on this island. So, I think as a small farmer we really need the support. You know, we've been blessed with so many gifts and so much just comes our way, but we need to keep that happening, keep that going everywhere, because so much also goes to waste. And, you know, if you'll drive around with your eyes open every day, you'll see the land crying out, you know, for what it needs. You know, it needs the compost, it needs to be fed. So, I hope that the County is able to help us do that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo...

MR. GOETTER: If you have any questions for me, please.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, Matthew, we have a question from Member Paltin.

MR. GOETTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Matthew. I just was wondering, you know, with the COVID situation have you been having a hard time to get the food waste nowadays?

MR. GOETTER: Well, definitely, it dried up for a lot of people, and a lot of farmers were hurting because they relied on those food scraps coming in and...from restaurants and a lot of that just shut down. And, you know, it still is being produced. We're trying to launch community composting programs. I think that it'd be awesome to see a green bin outside of every door, because if everyone was filling their green waste and their food waste and the County was picking that up and taking that, you know, it was separated right there, curbside, problem solved overnight. You know, we have so much organic waste that's being wrapped in plastic and buried and that's the worst thing to do for our island. It's the worst thing to do for our climate. It's the worst thing to do for our health. So, if we divert that simply, I think that would solve the problem.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, then...and...so you're not getting the food waste now because of the COVID but I was wondering...

MR. GOETTER: I will say I used to get, well me personally, but I know it's different case by case for other people, but it's still out there, right, it's still being...everyone is still eating. So, obviously with the tourism going down, you know, I haven't been making money, restaurants are closed, you know, it's hard to pay the bills, but, you know, we're still producing something.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I mean so I have family that has a piggery, they haven't been able to get the slop for the piggery also. But if you're talking about for worms, do you need folks to separate out like fats, oils, greases, and meats, and...

MR. GOETTER: No. I mean ultimately you should do two stages of composting and be able happy to talk more about this, but there's thermophilic composting where things heat up and there's a chemical reaction and then worm composting is a slow process where the temperature doesn't change as much. So, if you start with the hot process and you chemically change all the grease, the fats, and you break down everything there, you sterilize most of the bad pathogens before it even goes into the worm bin. Anything that then is in the worm bin is also broken down in a different way, chemically transfigured, but this time it's through the worm and is made safe again, so it's like a second layer of essentially purifying and preparing the soil for the next round of growing, you know, putting --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, awesome.

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MR. GOETTER: --your beautiful lettuce there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, one more.

MR. GOETTER: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering what, at your top production, what types of volume are you able to handle?

MR. GOETTER: Me personally I'm, like right now I'm so far below the volume of what I'm able to accomplish, because honestly I still do most of my things by hand. You know, I've got farmers all around me with tractors and stuff, and they help me out sometimes and that, but just that can quadruple my production just having access to heavy equipment and stuff like that. If this was being done on a Countywide scale, I think it would be very easy to scale up. You know, there's definitely systems in place, and I think we should have local drop-offs all over, you know. But everyone should be doing this in their backyard or everyone should be doing this in their community, and that's what a department of ag, a Countywide department can manage. It's bins strategically placed throughout the neighborhoods. I mean they, you can just drop it off there, it all gets trucked away right to farms. Farmers would pay to have that delivered to them if they're the ones who want to compost it themselves or have the pigs to break it down, or you send it to a Countywide composting facility and you redistribute the compost back to everyone. And the other thing that I would like to say is everyone complains to me about the compost that's available from the County. They want my compost, they want compost that's living, that's alive, and I think it'd be very easy to fix that problem, to malama our compost system and bring it back to life so that people want to use it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, but as is without heavy machinery or anything, what is your volume that you can accommodate?

MR. GOETTER: Right now we're working on two acres and I'm producing, you know, it's kind of funny like it ramps up each cycle, right? As I get...as I got to a million worms they're producing more. You know, if I sell half a million worms in one month or let's say, you know, 30-cubic yards of soil or something, then I'm going to...at a stage where that's half of what I'm selling, I'm going to be able to produce less. But I've been doing this for one year, you know, and each month we're kind of quadrupling, the worms are exponentially growing so we're constantly increasing the amount of soil that we're able to regenerate. And if...the more it spreads, the better. And it's only going to get better. It's just, it's working with natural systems right, and that's the other thing is spreading this education so that people aren't afraid about these questions, how do I do the composting in my backyard. The County should have that list right there on your bin, this is what goes in it and this is what we don't want to accept, put that in this bin. And there's examples all over the world, right. You know they say the Japanese have 15 different trashcans in Tokyo, but . . .(inaudible). . . you

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know let's work. With the Maui Huliau Foundation we work with them, they bring us a ton of --

CHAIR SINENCI: Matthew, we have a --

MR. GOETTER: --food...

CHAIR SINENCI: --question from Member King.

MR. GOETTER: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Hi, Mat.

MR. GOETTER: Hey, how's it going.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: My first question would be when is The Mill House going to open back up? But I'm not going to ask you that one. No, what my question...

MR. GOETTER: Let's talk about the property, the property is open.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: When you were talking about green waste, what...I guess my question to you is do you believe that there's a way to make that profitable? Because, you know, we had that 3-Can Plan up in Maui Meadows, and the Administration kept fighting and fighting and finally it's out of the budget now so that we killed it. And if there's a way to make that kind of curbside recycling profitable, is that who we should look to is maybe the farmers and/or the composters rather than the neighborhood, actually going to the neighborhoods? 'Cause I kind of --

MR. GOETTER: Definitely. Well --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --figure I think it's such a great benefit...

MR. GOETTER: --let's say this, like to me when we talk about profit, we just have to think about it in the right frame, right. What's profitable for this island is something that's sustainable and something that will give back...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, I know but the problem is we can't get...

MR. GOETTER: ...*(inaudible)*...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But the problem is we can't get the Department and the Administration to want to do it, because they have to see a payback, and even though it's been paying for itself because people are paying the fee, they still don't want to do it. So, my question to you is are there people like you that could put together a program that would make something like that profitable that you could do outside of our County operations?

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MR. GOETTER: I think so. I think like that's what we're trying...like that's what I tried to launch my business on was the idea that everybody wants soil. Every farmer wants to grow with something good, you know, whether you're a backyard gardener, whether you have three container pots, whether you have one acre, you want to grow the best things. So, the market is there. Also, it's what the earth needs. Like it's the solution to climate change, it's the solution to food security, it's the solution to water storage, it's the solution to, you know, so many problems are solved with soil.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Could you do me a favor?

MR. GOETTER: So if . . . *(inaudible)* . . . soil.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, I don't want to get into that whole discussion.

MR. GOETTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I would appreciate if you would contact me 'cause --

MR. GOETTER: Yeah, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --I want to have...

MR. GOETTER: That's, I guess that's a different thing.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, that's part of my thing is I want to get back to when we were recycling and I'm really hopeful that there is --

MR. GOETTER: But...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --a way to work around another avenue. So, thank you for that.

MR. GOETTER: But especially in the idea of like in the context of tourists coming back to our island and how do we teach them to malama the island, I think part of that is like hey, point out recycling and food... 'cause a lot of them come like oh, we're used to composting bins and now we don't have it, does everything just get thrown away. Thank you for your time, everyone. Thank you for doing this work. And please contact me, I work...my farm's The Seeking Root. If you need any other questions or whatever, I'd love to help solve these problems. Mahalo.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Chair, you're muted.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Apo-Takayama, call the next testifier.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. There's no further individuals signed up to testify, but we've received written testimony for this meeting.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you. And I did want to mahalo all of our testifiers for joining us today. We wouldn't be able to have this kind of in-depth discussions without the actual farmers joining us. So again, mahalo. Is...so, Members, seeing that there are no more individuals wishing to testify, without objections, I'll close oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Mahalo. And then, Members, are there any objections to receiving the written testimony into the record?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. So, if there are no objections, I will now close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

EACP-46: ESTABLISHING THE MĀLAMA MAUI COUNTY PLEDGE (CC 20-298)

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. So, moving on to our first item, EACP-46, Establishing the Mālama Maui County Pledge. And so, this resolution was placed on the May 26, 2020 Council meeting agenda per the request by Council Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and was subsequently referred to our Committee. And so, we brought this up because, you know, Members, this pandemic has pumped the brakes on our island and our economy, our oceans are cleaner, our roads are empty, our air is cleaner of pollutants. And but despite the economic downturn, we've been given a rare opportunity to address issues of over-tourism, traffic congestion, visitor-to-resident ratios, and promotional videos. We spent countless hours in Committee addressing visitor impacts on the roads, on our beaches, and on the environment. So, we wanted to mahalo Council Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez for her `ike, for her foresight in authoring this Mālama Maui County Pledge and for instigating a code of conduct setting behavior standards that are acceptable by our lāhui, our residents. So, with that, if Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez would like to read the reso.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And again, mahalo for welcoming me to your Committee and for hearing this important legislation. So, I do have some further amendments, but I'll read what has been posted to the agenda. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the County of Maui: 1. That the following is established as the Mālama Maui County Pledge: I pledge to be pono (to do what is

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right) while visiting the islands and waters of Maui County. I will mindfully experience the breathtaking natural beauty of the `āina (land) and welcoming...and the welcoming aloha spirit of its lāhui (people). I will be ha`aha`ha (humble) in my actions. I will remember that each step I take is upon land that someone else's home, sacred site, and living history. If I do not know proper, respectful, or safe behavior, it is my kuleana (responsibility) to `imi na`auao (seek knowledge) and ask before acting. I will be `akamai (smart) while swimming and hiking, and I will respect the strength and power of ocean currents, rushing streams, and the variable and unfamiliar terrain of these islands. I will admire wildlife from a safe and respectful distance and shall not harm what does not harm me. I will take nothing from this wahi (place) but memories and leave nothing but gratitude. I pledge to mālama (take care of) Maui County, and remember that: He ali`i ka `āina; he kauā ke kanaka. "The land is a chief: man is its servant."; and then copies of it would be sent to the following people. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So, did you want to make those amendments to the current, the resolution?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Chair, I think we should have a motion on the floor first.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I move to approve the resolution.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Second.

CHAIR SINENCI: It's been moved by Member Lee and seconded by Member King. Any discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think maybe Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez should take the discussion first since it's her proposal.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. So, I'd like to propose some amendments to the pledge itself to delete "be pono." So, I had assistance with Staff, Ms. Apo-Takayama assisted me in the drafting of this. So, I pledge to ho`oma`ema`e (to do what's right). No one is pono. We all just strive to be pono so pono is balanced and it's not a constant state of being, it's just something that you strive to be. So, I would delete "be pono" and would change it to "ho`oma`ema`e." And on the second line where it says the "welcoming aloha spirit of its lāhui" I would scratch "lāhui" and I would put "po`e" which is people. Lāhui is, refers more to a nation.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: The nation.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So, I would scratch that and I would replace it with "po`e." I would add "I will be ha`aha`ha (humble) and no`ono`o (thoughtful) in my actions." And on the back I would change "`akamai" to "maka`ala"

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so that...which means aware. So, that when they're swimming and hiking they will be maka`ala. And I would change "I will admire wildlife from a safe and respectful distance" and I would delete "and shall not harm what does not harm me" and replace it with "as Hawai'i is the endangered species capital of the world." And then in the whereas clauses, I would add three whereas clauses before the "WHEREAS, a visitor pledge would help Maui County's visitors understand how they are to behave." So, right above that last whereas clause, I would add "WHEREAS, the Maui County Visitors Association seeks to educate and inform visitors to our islands as we begin to welcome guests back to the islands and this pledge is a good step in that work; and WHEREAS, the Council encourages the Maui County Visitors Association to work with the Hawaii Tourism Authority and airline partners to furnish the pledge for signing along with other custom declaration forms before landing; and WHEREAS, activity businesses that hold County permits to operate on public lands or in our nearshore waters are encouraged to have their customers and guests sign the pledge to show their respect for our precious resources." So that there's a little a more direction in the resolution and that it's not just something pretty to have that we would pass this resolution and there would be some action involved. And I...and just for everyone's additional information, I did send the resolution to the `Aha Kiole O Molokai and the `Aha Moku O Maui for their feedback. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, I have to, I would have to say so moved because she's not a Member. So, she can't be making amendments so I move for the amendments. And I just want to say, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, that that was a beautiful, it's a beautiful resolution, but I would...I'm not going to but I thought about adding "and when your vacation is over, you go`ogo`o home."

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But you're not.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And I decided not to add it.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair Lee, for not adding it. So, we have a motion to amend.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh wait, wait, wait.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I just wanted to talk about the second whereas, I didn't write it all down but it, the gist of it was that all the customers and clients and visitors who come would need to sign. But as opposed to putting it in the whereas, it would be better to put it in the be it therefore resolved. Would that be a better place, Chair, if Keani --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: --could respond?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So, we can put the first whereas in there, and then the second two whereas we can put it after the pledge. So, it would be be it resolved, one the pledge, two the Council encourages the Maui County Visitors Association to have people sign, and then three, activity businesses would also encourage their clients to sign. Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: You're welcome. One more thing, Chair. Because it is a very beautiful pledge that only if you're a tourist and you come, you're going to see it. But it should be plastered--if I may say that--in as many spaces and places like how you see no parking signs that remind you not to park. Well, this is like a reminder for all of us, not just our visitors but for all of us, how we are to treat this place that we call our home. So, I don't know how you wanted to put the language in that says that, but I'd like to see something like that incorporated into this.

CHAIR SINENCI: So, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, would that be a friendly amendment to your amendment or --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SINENCI: --maybe Chair Lee's...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's number four under be it resolved. I like that suggestion.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. I did have a motion by...I did receive a motion to amend by Member Lee, is there a second?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And I second. Second.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, and a second by Pro Temp Kama, and then more discussion. Member Molina, did you have anything to add? And then Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you. First of all, I support the resolution. I think this is something that should the...as we consider remarketing the tourism, I think this is a step forward in that direction, a positive one. Just a question maybe Member Rawlins-Fernandez can respond to. The distribution of copies of this, should we consider having these sent to some of our Maui delegation, State officials, the Governor? If that's something for consideration. And also with Maui, you know, as you mentioned being the endangered species capital of the world, was that cited from like *National Geographic* or some, you know, science institute or organization with regards to Maui being the endangered species? 'Cause that was an eye-opener, that was interesting to hear. Can you comment on that?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. I can get you a citation for that. And I'm also open to whoever else you'd like to add to send it to.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, you would like to send it to all the legislators, all of the --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --Maui County's --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --State Legislators, Representatives, and the Governor?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Senators yeah, and Governor. Yeah. Maybe even our Congressional delegation if that's something you'd like to consider as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Take out Kay Fukumoto's name.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. I think we will have to replace that with the new director's name.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: JoAnn Inamasu

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I also needed to double-check to see if the President of HTA was changed too because I thought that changed.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chris Tatum resigned.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I could...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Or retired.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Retired yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. Yeah, yes. So, I need to go find out...so when this was...it was...this was drafted like last year and getting...I tried really hard to get outreach and feedback from our, you know, Hawaiian organizations and it took some time.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Long time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...yes. Yes. So, we'll replace those that are no longer in those positions with the people who are in those positions, and then we'll add the State Legislators, the Congressional delegates, and the Governor.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Why don't we just go to the President of the United States too?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: He can't read.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Maybe he'll put it up in the White House for the next President to read.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, that's better.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Okay, thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Members. So, we have a motion and a second to include those amendments. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, so we're including the recent amendments we just made too as friendly amendments to...with adding on the new people at the Senate too?

CHAIR SINENCI: If there are no objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I just wanted to find out if the Maui Visitors Bureau was aware of this, 'cause I know they were working on something with that group that they had, and I don't know if that group is still meeting, the tourist group that Kai Nishiki was part of. I don't know if they're still meeting, but I just wanted to make sure that we get this in front of them. Because I believe they were working on something last year, and I think we don't want like ten different versions of this out there 'cause it gets really confusing. So, have they seen this version?

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I am not sure if all of them. I didn't send it to the tourism taskforce under the Mayor's Office. I'm not sure what their official name was. They've temporarily suspended meeting --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --since the pandemic. And I know that I did see what they were working on. I met with --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Terry.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Terryl.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I forget the last name.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Terryl Vencl. Terryl Vencl.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, Vencl. Yeah. So, I met with her, she showed me the rental car tags, the rearview mirror tags that was going to have the aloha pledge. I like...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, no, I just wanted to, you know, be able to work with them so that we can get our pledge on there so that there's not like, you know, confusing different versions of this and people don't understand it, so. Okay.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KING: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . That's all.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Maybe it should be in the rent-a-cars, in the offices of the rent-a-cars, you know, when you walk in, there it is on the wall. It's on a plaque.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Members, so we have a motion on the floor. We'll call for the vote...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, Member Paltin has her hand up.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh sorry. Go ahead, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. I just had two questions for my own education purposes. The first one what was ho`oma`ema`e? . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ho`oma`ema`e is to do the right thing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the second one is so this is a resolution and then from what I learned before, the resolutions don't have the force and effect of law, because we can't force the folks to do it. But in the permitting of commercial ocean recreation activities on our parks, we do have some authority over that. So, if it's a resolution and there's things that we as the County does have authority over, could we make that part be an ordinance?

CHAIR SINENCI: Do we have Ms. Thomson? You want a clarification from Corporation Counsel?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'd be awesome.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Thomson?

MS. THOMSON: Hi, Chair. Thanks for the question. Let me just turn up my volume a little bit. Not within this current proposed resolution, but I mean if you wanted to look at the CORA permit section to see if there were some changes, amendments that you've made to that part of the County Code, yeah, we could take a look at that separately. I wouldn't recommend doing it, you know, changing this reso to an ordinance without having us look at it with, you know, more, kind of more scrutiny to make sure that we're not stepping into any area where we can't, you know, can't legislate. But we're happy to take a look at the CORA permitting issue if you'd like us to.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, cool. Is that the only area that you see that we have jurisdiction over the CORA permitting out of the list of things that Member Rawlins-Fernandez read?

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Thomson?

MS. THOMSON: I think fundamentally it would be a very different discussion. You know as you were saying, the resolution is, you know, encouraging and setting out a policy, but there aren't ramifications or penalties so there's not an enforcement section, you know, to this proposed reso. So, you know, what I think you're getting at is something that has a little bit more teeth, but, you know, off the cuff, I'm not able to give you a, you know, a solid answer on whether we could mandate having a pledge of this nature be part of our permitting process. I just really want the opportunity to look at that with a little more depth. But we can do that, so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just to a follow-up question, like the things that are in the pledge for example, about, you know, ocean and hiking safety and whatnot, and say there's a high wind warning and a kayak tour operator takes out 15 kayaks and they all need to be rescued. Would that be then grounds for revocation of their permit? Because that's not safe or the right thing.

MS. THOMSON: I...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Endangering the lives of . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MS. THOMSON: Potentially that's already part of the CORA permitting regime, I'm just, I haven't looked at that section of the Code in a little while. But, you know, in terms of their safety record when they would come up for renewal, it seems like that would be relevant information.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, I mean I guess when I'm seeing it happen, it wasn't CORA, it was more State operators so that's why. Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Members, so we're going to call for the vote for the amendments. So, all in favor of amending the pledge with the friendly amendments added, please say "aye" and raise your hands.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Apo-Takayama, can you see everyone? There you go. Okay, unanimous.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sinenci, Vice-Chair Kama,
Councilmembers King, Lee, Molina, Paltin, and
Sugimura.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVED AMENDMENT.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Now we're gonna call for the final vote with amendments. Members, so we're gonna vote to establish the mālama pledge. The motion to go ahead and...oh we'll...Ms. Apo-Takayama, can we call for a roll call vote on this one please? So, this is the final vote for the pledge with amendments. All in...go ahead and call for the vote.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The motion is, was moved by Chair Lee, seconded by Councilmember Kama. So, Council Chair [sic] Kelly Takaya King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think I was the second on the original motion but that's okay.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Okay, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Are you just looking for...are you looking for a vote?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Yes, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Aye.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Mike Molina?

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Aye.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Council Chair Alice L. Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Tamara Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Absolutely.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Committee Chair Shane Sinenci?

CHAIR SINENCI: And that's an aye for me. So, that's seven to zero unanimous in the Committee.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sinenci, Vice-Chair Kama,
Councilmembers King, Lee, Molina, Paltin, and
Sugimura.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending ADOPTION of resolution.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Members. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Mahalo.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Mahalo, Keani.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, and then one last thing, if there are no objections, the Chair would like to defer the item.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No objection. How come you want to defer it?

CHAIR SINENCI: If...no, we're not...we just passed it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We just passed it so...

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, scratch. Okay. Scratch that one.

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Chair, your motion...Chair, the motion was to adopt the resolution but you didn't do anything with the County Communication.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: File it?

CHAIR SINENCI: Right. So...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Move to file. Move to file County Communication.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Second.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. There's a motion to file by Member King and seconded by Member Molina. All in favor please raise your hands.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, looks like seven-zero.

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**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sinenci, Vice-Chair Kama,
Councilmembers King, Lee, Molina, Paltin, and
Sugimura.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending FILING of communication.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Members. And mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good job, Keani. Wonderful.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, everyone. And mahalo for all of your backend amendments.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. And we know that you have a four o'clock press conference so we're going to power through, Members. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: All right. Yeah. Thank you.

EACP-24: FOOD SECURITY FOR MAUI COUNTY (CC 19-175)

CHAIR SINENCI: So, our next item, Members, is EACP-24, Food Security for Maui County. Members, the COVID-19 if it's taught us anything, it's how vulnerable we are to food shortages should shipping services cease due to any natural disasters or worldwide pandemics like the one we're in now. The majority of our food is imported from the mainland, almost 90 percent of it. And we are 2,500 miles away from the West Coast of the US. Today, Members, our guests will share their expertise in food security measures on the island and specific routes on how our County can take toward food security. So, today we have Ms. Jennifer Karaca, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Common Ground Collective. We also have Mr. Duane Lammers, Hana Ranch Manager, and Mr. Scott Crawford, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, Hana Chapter. So, Members, if there are no objections, I'd like to designate

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Ms. Karaca, Mr. Lammers, and Mr. Crawford as resource persons pursuant to 18(A) of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Members. And so, okay, we'll just get to it. Ms. Karaca, do...would you like to begin your presentation?

MS. KARACA: Yes, can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can.

MS. KARACA: Okay, I'm going to share my screen so you guys don't have to look at me.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Jennifer? Jennifer?

MS. KARACA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Jennifer?

MS. KARACA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: For the record, could you --

MS. KARACA: Can you hear me?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: --pronounce...could you state your name? Because I believe the Chair inadvertently mispronounced your last name.

MS. KARACA: So, my name is Jennifer Karaca. It's tricky to say so I usually don't correct people. I just want to say thank you so much for allowing me to present today. You guys know me from my work with the County Council and Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's office, but I'm also the founding Executive Director of Common Ground Collective, a Maui-based nonprofit that works with farmers, landowners aspiring to become part of the food system and various markets within Maui County. And our mission is to promote food security, economic opportunity, and education about Maui's agricultural sector. On top of my work with the community through these two positions, I also have my degree in sustainable science management from the University of Hawaii. I've actually been studying Maui's agricultural sector for the last eight years. I'm going to apologize in advance for the quantity of information I'm going to provide here. I hope that it's not too overwhelming. If at any point you need me to let you read a slide, just let me know because it's such a huge topic and I literally could present for weeks on it, but I'm just going try to give you a brief overview which is going to seem like a lot. But as we all know agriculture is a very complicated topic and I wanted to get as much in as possible. So --

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CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. KARACA: --I hope that the information that I share with you may...oh, hello?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had a question. Did you start sharing your screen already?

MS. KARACA: Yes, I did. Can you not see it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

CHAIR SINENCI: No.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, we don't see it.

MS. KARACA: All right, let me go...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We still see you.

MS. KARACA: Oh, you still see me? Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, there you go.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not complaining, just...

MS. KARACA: Okay, what about now, can you see it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, can.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can see it now.

MS. KARACA: No, I want you to see the screen, not me.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, I can see the screen. Food security versus food...

MS. KARACA: So...perfect. So, the information I share with you today will probably both alarm you and inspire you hopefully to make some much needed changes in our agricultural sector. I also hope that it opens up you guys' eyes to all of the possibilities that we have at our fingertips to make Maui County thrive. As we begin to discuss food security, it's important that we all understand the difference between food self-sufficiency and food security. So, food self-sufficiency is basically how much food and the demand for food is met by local production, whereas food security is defined by when people have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary and food preference needs for an active and healthy lifestyle. So, food security is much more encompassing than just food self-sufficiency. So, today I will be discussing Maui's food security which also includes

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discussing community health and well-being, the economy and environment that affects households purchasing power, and environmental connections that affect both human and ecosystem health. Studies show that Hawaii's reliance on imports is upwards of 90 percent and that overall food insecurity in Maui County was measured at 12 percent overall with around 19.4 percent of our childhood populations being food insecure. These statistics were pre-COVID-19 and now with the pandemic the unemployment rate has exceeded 35 percent, and food security and community feeding needs have skyrocketed as families face loss of employment. Our community is facing one of the biggest challenges that we've ever seen as a community, and the community health along with the economic costs from the fallouts of COVID-19 are currently immeasurable and very concerning. So, a robust agricultural sector is essential to recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and is critical to ensuring our readiness and resilience to future disasters. Health challenges from food insecurity cost the State around \$1.2 billion annually. Of those costs, Maui County contributes significantly since it has the highest rate of all Hawaii counties for hospitalizations due to short-term complications of diabetes. The national trend is one in three children will have Type 2 diabetes; however, Hawaii has a much higher rate with half of children predicted to have Type 2 diabetes. Economic conditions are highly correlated with health, and the percentage of all people living in Maui County was 8.9 percent, and the poverty rate for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific islanders was 14.8 percent. Those numbers along with the numbers in the previous slide are all predicted to increase dramatically due to the economic fallout of COVID-19. Even before COVID-19, our agricultural sector has been facing extreme hardships and has been in a sense crippled due to the lack of support, investment of resources, paired with an extremely competitive global market. Our agricultural systems and institutions are not currently equipped to deal with these growing pressures. Since the 1980s, agricultural land acreage has been reduced by 50 percent and has remained largely for export. Profits for farmers have also significantly decreased since the 1980s, along with our agricultural workforce. Now due to the closure of hotels and restaurants, Hawaii farmers and ranchers are suffering a 50 percent decline in sales on average. Estimated losses for local food producers alone average \$2 million per week in Hawaii, and other agricultural sectors have been heavily impacted as well. If these trends continue, we will not have any farmers left, because it will be too cost prohibitive for many to pursue as a career and others who are currently farming will face bankruptcy. Agricultural futures is a term used to describe the trade of agricultural commodities. Futures are standardized binding agreements in which buyers and sellers agree to trade specific quantities of agriculture commodities at an agreed-upon price on a given future date. That's how agricultural commodities are traded on a global scale, and as you can see that global agricultural commodities are actually bottoming out in the most cases. So, when we talk about food security, a lot of the time we think of the threats to Hawaii being natural disasters that would prevent the barges from coming for a set period of time, but the reality is that the real risk is that there will not be any food on the barges even if they can come, with the way the global agricultural system is heading. The Coronavirus is just a latest...is just the latest string of misfortunes that have kept the global and local farm economy down. Weather disasters, trade wars, and commodity prices being below the cost of

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production has caused detrimental effects on our agricultural sector for years. These are just some of the supply chain risks that we face, and we can see that political instability and economic instability are something that we're witnessing globally right now that could affect us as well. A lack of viable and humane guest worker programs is also something that has been affected from COVID-19 with travel bans now. There's a lot of migrant workers that will not be able to get visas or travel outside of their country to come work on the farms that we rely on for food. Climate change is also a huge threat. Increases in temperatures, precipitation patterns, increases in extreme weather events, and reductions in water availability all result in reduced agricultural productivity and can cause widespread crop failures around the globe. So, we cannot rely on imports because of these factors, especially since as the supply chain dwindles and food sellers will need to start prioritizing their more profitable accounts, Hawaii due to its geographic location is less profitable due to transportation costs and losses. So, we would fall pretty low on the list of who to get food to as the food supply chain dwindles.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. KARACA: So, now like let's...hello?

CHAIR SINENCI: Just checking. Members, can you see Jennifer's entire screen? I'm just seeing half. Can you...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I can see the whole screen.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . entire screen.

CHAIR SINENCI: Can you see that?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The entire screen is showing on *Akaku* too, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: Her entire screen? Oh, okay. I'll just move it over. Okay. Thank you. Proceed, Ms. Karaca.

MS. KARACA: Okay. So, taking a look at our local needs in the agricultural sector is...I'm just giving a very broad overview because each one of these areas of need are extremely complex and I could discuss them for literally hours. So, the agricultural sector in Maui County is extremely underdeveloped when it comes to the possibilities of growth. Maui County hosts some of the most ideal environments for agriculture. The weather, various micro climates, rainfall, geographic location, topography, natural resources, and a large pool of experts in various fields of agriculture could make us one of the world's leaders in agriculture; however, we have not seen a serious investment into our agricultural sector and that's probably because it had seemed too

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complicated to dive into, but we can't afford to put that off any longer. So, I'll just go over some of these briefly. Infrastructure is, you know, improving access to affordable land, workforce housing, water, labor, equipment, and processing and distribution facilities. Funding, we need to secure Federal, State, and private funding to provide grants to farmers and agro-related businesses in Maui County, and we need to provide grant writing assistance as well. A lot of these farmers are already overworked and taking on that responsibility of searching out grants and then meeting all the requirements to apply for them becomes a little too much. Inspection and enforcement, to provide additional inspectors for invasive species at retail locations, airports, and harbors would help minimize the amount of resources that the County uses to eradicate invasive species. And we also need inspectors in various...that are trained in various department permitting so that we can streamline County inspection and permitting processes, because it takes a lot of resources, time, and trying to navigate the system for farmers which is really unnecessary and unfortunate. We also need to provide more oversight for restricted use materials to protect farmers and build trust within our community. These areas of need are expansive and complicated and needs serious attention, and currently the County relies on the State Department of Agriculture to address most of these issues. So, next we're going to look at the Department of Ag at the State level and their programs and shortfalls. According to a 2018 report by the Hawaii Budget and Policy Center, the Department of Agriculture receives .045 percent of the State's 2019 Budget. That's less than half a half percent. So, funding is a huge issue and that amount is for all agriculture all across the Hawaiian islands. So, it's really not a lot that they've dedicated to agriculture, and according to the Agricultural 101 Division at the State, the historical low interest rates have affected the program's revenue and program's operating expenditures and have also reduced, through various position vacancies, cost-cutting measures, and yet the demand for loans remains constant and is anticipated to increase. This is I'm saying basically they're maxed out. Plant, Pest, and Disease Control Division are also maxed out. The minimal funding that the State Department of Agriculture receives should give the counties a clue as to how little of a priority agriculture is for the State. I don't think that this is necessarily a malicious thing so much as they have so much that they have to balance, and it just is falling lower on the totem pole than it should. As you can see on the next slide, many of the...in this and the next slide, many of the divisions within the department are already short staffed and struggling so the idea of the State being able to solve our County problems when they have various islands to focus on and are already at capacity is 100 percent unrealistic. This information was taken directly from the State's department own...the department's own budget report so this isn't something that I made up, this is actually taken directly from it. We see more examples here of reductions in personnel and operating cost affecting even more divisions. So, a lack of resources have left the State's Department of Agricultural programs overburdened and understaffed and the County can't rely on the State to solve its problems. We need to start taking ownership of our own agriculture sector and build a new sustainable and regenerative system that benefits our community. So, let's look at where the County is support and limitations-wise to give us a better idea of where we're at. Maui County is unique that it spans four different islands. While this can seem like it might create a huge burden if we're looking at these islands

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as a drain on resources, if we change that frame of mind and look at agriculture as a tool to transform, these islands could actually be a huge benefit for Maui County. Currently, we haven't really looked at agriculture as being a serious tool to benefit our islands, and we only employ one agricultural specialist for the entire four islands. Because of this, agriculture-related issues, permittees, and duties are orphaned under various departments. And with little or no coordination between the departments on agriculture-related issues, the system has become incredibly difficult to navigate for farmers who are often penalized and required to allocate tremendous amounts of time and resources to be able to continue to produce. On top of the divides created for the agricultural sector from being pushed off to various departments, the County is also extremely reliant on nonprofits, businesses, individual advocates, and educational organizations to direct and manage the agricultural sector. This unfortunately has created unintended consequences and huge divides within the agricultural community. So, now that I've given you just a brief rundown of some of the challenges and issues that are...we're facing as a County in regards to food security, I want to turn to a more positive note and kind of start expanding on some of the possibilities that come ahead as we start refocusing our energy. Agriculture can be managed to make positive contributions and achieve multiple sustainability goals and food security, or it can basically bring down your entire community. So, agriculture is actually one of the industries that affects the daily lives of every single person on this planet. It's at the root of almost everything that we own, use, and eat. Agriculture is one of the most dominant forms of land management also globally. And agricultural ecosystems cover nearly 40 percent of the earth's terrestrial surface. Almost every ecosystem service can be tied to agriculture so as we begin to dive into the supporting and provisioning sides of the ecosystem services that agriculture provides, it's important to remember that agricultural...agriculture is also tied to regulating. Those are the ones on the bottom like purifying water, storing carbon, cleaning air, flooding control, cooler temperatures, and the cultural ecosystem services, recreation, education, stewardship, habitat that are important to our community health and well-being along with having their own economic benefits. It's important for this County to start treating our natural resources and ecosystems as the lifeblood of this County because that is what they are. They support and provide life for our community in every aspect of our daily lives. Over the years and through my studies, I've come to realize that when most people talk about agriculture, they're actually only aware or discussing a small portion of agriculture and that's usually farming. I think that's because over the last 100 years, the average person has become almost completely detached from a resource-based economy and thinks that agriculture only consists of arable farming and portions of horticulture; however, agriculture contains hundreds of sectors and I'm just going to give you a brief overview of what agriculture really encompasses over the next six slides. This is actually my favorite part of the presentation because it's so exciting to think of all the amazing options that Maui County can use to grow our economy and the opportunities that are in store for our residents. Horticulture is probably one of the most expansive fields of agriculture so I just kind of wrote down some of the broad areas that is covered by horticulture which is the most ideal type of agriculture for Maui County, based on resident needs and wants through my research. It is the smaller scale agriculture that consists of more

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diversified crops and it tends to take less natural resources too. I say this but I also do want to stress that horticulture and arable farming can consist of both organic and conventional growing methods, and with our current food insecurity levels, we need to be supportive of both and we need to build bridges and find financially feasible ways to grow and come together and not create divides. All of our farmers are already facing extreme obstacles and hardships, we need to work to lift everybody up. Agriculture and forestry are also extremely exciting areas of ag for Maui County, because we have both freshwater and oceans to care for, along with various micro climates that can host huge and diverse sectors of forestry. Added-value products is an area where we could really change our economy as well. We have a tremendous population of talented artists and creative residents who can be transformed from low-level tourism employees to entrepreneurs who own their own small businesses. In fact, many of our community members already call...have what we call a side hustle, and that's ways to make extra cash that include added-value products. So, this sector could be built up rather quickly with the right support and guidance. While becoming a small business owner is a great choice for a career, it's not the only way that our residents can earn a living in the agricultural sector. By expanding our efforts to create career pathways and workforce development, Maui County could offer residents the opportunity to have successful high-paying careers in agriculture. Not just farm labor jobs which are also needed, but we need to find ways that we can subsidize farm labor to make it a realistic choice for our residents as well. Research and development are also going to be key in transitioning Maui County's agricultural sector. We need to provide more support to current research facilities and expand the amount of research that is taking place. There are so many areas of research that can be tapped into to create new industries and Maui County...in Maui County and help better manage our resources. Alternative plastics and packaging are just one emerging industry that Maui County could tap into. By utilizing waste streams like leftover plant materials, there are ways to create plastic alternatives that can help combat reliance on plastics which will in turn help our ecosystems. And as Matt touched on, composting is also a huge way to benefit our community through jobs, resources for farmers, and also the care of our ecosystems. Textiles and construction materials are also another sector that we could thrive in that is barely touched upon. One example of utilizing a plant that grows with little to no effort here on the drier areas of Maui is blue agave. With the . . .(inaudible). . . resistant plant alone you can create five different products. From the nectar you can make tequila and agave syrup which is a honey alternative. You can also make vegan silk, vegan leather, and surfboard blanks from the plant's fibers. There are many examples of crops that have multiple uses, and we need to start supporting these kinds of efforts and research. According to the, a report from the Office of Planning in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture, the economic impact of food import replacement is significant. Food expenditures of local consumers in 2004 and 2005 amounted to \$3.7 billion. If 85 percent of the food we consume is imported, this translates to \$3.1 billion leaving our State. Replacing just 10 percent of the food that we currently import would amount to approximately \$313 million, assuming a 30 percent farm share, that would be \$94 million. A farm . . .(inaudible). . . which would generate an economic-wide impact of an additional \$188 million in sales, \$47 million in earnings, and \$6 million in State tax revenues and

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would create more than 2,300 jobs. Imagine a return on investment if we could really put our focuses into agriculture with all the different industries and sectors I just listed. The County could completely transform these islands, our community health and well-being, and our economy while also boosting our food security if we took agriculture seriously. There is no reason for our islands to be reliant on imports, and food security can be accomplished for our residents as well as increased food self-sufficiency. If the County starts taking agriculture seriously and develops the department of agriculture to provide support for the agricultural sector, we can transition our regional food system from insecure and deteriorating into a healthy, thriving system that benefits residents, the environment, and our economy, and become a model for the rest of the world to follow. So, to sum up, benefits to the local community include increased food security, boosts to local economy and wealth distribution, careers and jobs, much-needed assistance for our farmers, agricultural data for more informed decisions, increase in biodiversity, increase in ecosystem health and longevity, and it can help to combat gentrification and urbanization which we know is kind of a battle here as well as far as land use goes. The lockdowns and disruptions of COVID-19 have shown that our food supply is extremely fragile. It's highlighted inequities and inequalities, and these systems that the public depends on have been undervalued and under protected. The weaknesses exposed by the virus will be compounded by climate change in years to come. So in other words, COVID-19 is a wakeup call for our food systems and that must be heeded. The crisis however has offered a glimpse which has been beautiful to witness of a more resilient food system. As our community has come together to plug in the gaps in the food system and public authorities like yourselves have taken extraordinary steps to secure the production and provisioning of food for our residents. We must learn though from the lessons of our past and resist these attempts to go back to business as usual. Taking measures to ensure that we begin to curb import reliance is a starting point for a food system transformation that builds resilience at all levels for our community. The lockdowns and disruptions triggered by COVID-19 have shown how fragile our supply chain is. And if we don't do something about this, we may not be so lucky next time. So, we must act now. I know this Council has done more for agriculture than any Council in the past, but unfortunately, it's not enough yet because our ag system has been left to fend for themselves for so long. So, please realize that each one of you have the power to decide whether Maui County will thrive or fail in this new reality and that food security is possible. Thank you so much for your time and consideration. And I've also included all of the resources that I used for this in this presentation so that you guys can go back and explore more at your own leisure.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Karaca. And, Members, we're just going to take the other two guest speakers and then we'll come back for a round of questions. So, Ms. Apo-Takayama, can you share Mr. Lammers' presentation? Thank you, Jen.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, I don't know, do we have Mr. Lammers on the phone?

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MR. LAMMERS: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Hold on, Duane.

MR. LAMMERS: Hello?

CHAIR SINENCI: Member King, did you...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I just had a question because we have two voting Members who are going to have leave for a four o'clock press conference, myself and Ms. Lee.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you. Mr. Lammers has just one slide.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. LAMMERS: Yeah, my presentation is going to be pretty short, so.

CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead, Duane.

MR. LAMMERS: I'll just give you a short background. I've been here at the ranch about three years now. My life's been involved in agriculture, my family still ranches in South Dakota. I'm going to kind of go through, I've done a lot of marketing development on products primarily related to livestock, all the way from value-added products on. And I just want to try to hit on a couple things. Now, the slide you see is actually a rendering, mobile rendering plant. It comes in as two 40-foot units. And I show this, it's not that I'm saying for sure we should get a rendering plant on Maui but I think couple things about it. As we... 'cause one of the key factors that I think is really important is further processing of agricultural products on the island. Part of the thing I run into here is just lemons for instance, a short example. When we get to really produce them, they're producing well beyond what I can market for a while and then, you know, they're falling on the ground. I need to figure out further processing so that I can extend the marketing of that particular item beyond marketing fresh. So, when I look at things like this unit, part of the value in that is it's something that could bring... be brought on island, it could be started, used. If after two or three years, it's not something we see as viable, it can be resold and you don't have a big building tied up with a lot of stuff that you got to figure out how to get rid of or a building that was especially built and now has no particular or more difficult to use. I think that's whether you're processing... rendering off the meat industry or different, there's mobile slaughter plants, I'm sure you're all aware of. When I look at the things that I consider weak links in agriculture in Hawaii, are some of the issues I think that I run into. In my background I have a B.S. in animal science and economics and a Master's in natural resource management. And of course our goal here at the ranch is try to create a model of sustainable agriculture in a subtropical environment. So, we're working on that. I would tell you that this ranch was producing a lot of farm production, a lot of fresh lettuces, and so forth. A few years ago, they really couldn't get it marketed, you know, so we're not doing that anymore, we've dropped that back.

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We couldn't market it profitably. I think if you look at...well, look at the animal industry in particular, I'm not sure a lot of you are aware but there's 27 states that have state inspection rather than USDA. The difference is you can't sell the meat outside the state which here I'm not sure it's a big issue. Hawaii used to have state inspection up until the late '90s. They dropped it. Something else you should know, some people think maybe state inspection is not as good, as well inspected, but there's never been a meat recall in a state-inspected plant in any of the states. The other thing is mostly in state-inspected plants, because they're not large volume, the meat has a lot more in-depth inspection for health than a USDA large plant where the inspector sees it for a few seconds. These inspectors which are, can be trained locally can see it for a few minutes, for several minutes anyway, and I think that's one of the things too, is we can train local people to be the inspectors. That's typically what happens in other states. We don't have to ship somebody in from somewhere else. So, I think I look at those things, those are key factors. I think it's...again when I look at the weak links, it has...for other processing, one of the things we do do with our ulu is we're actually shipping now to the Big Island to a co-op. Because as been brought up, you know, we don't know what's going to be happening with Young Brothers, 'cause we have to ship pretty fast in order to get there in good shape. We're probably are going to have to try to figure out how to have processing here on Maui even if we would still work with that co-op for further . . .(inaudible) . . . to market. But I think marketing is, one of our biggest things is marketing. I think...I know we talk a lot about young farmers, producers, and so forth, I think we have a lot...I'm not too scared of the talent . . .(inaudible) . . . I think we have the production capability. That's not really our weak link. Our weak links are really further processing and marketing. I think those are the biggest things that when I look at it...and I think the other thing that happens with all this...when I talk about further processing is the permitting processes to me are ungodly. They're disjointed, they're long in trying to get them accomplished. They're just to me the biggest impediment to business development here. I'm sure they all had a reason at the time. I'm guessing that the State probably thought it was a good idea to do it, but then has not really funded these agencies to get things done well enough. That's part of what I think is going on. You know, it takes just to get a burn permit, it takes me three months. I asked about another kind of ag permit, they told me 6 to 12 months to get a permit. This seems...I mean these are things where you should be able to send something in and get some response in 30 days. These are not things that take months, they should take weeks. I would take...in the end, I would like to make a couple comments about, you know, this resolution for a department of ag in Maui County. While I think it's well thought of, I think our weakness is not a department of ag, and I think probably we should see what the State is doing in the Department of Ag, see if they're doing anything to . . .(inaudible) . . . that up. But over the years, I've relied on university ag departments a lot. They've been very helpful. I've done that here. They've been for, you know, somebody that's come in here while I've had a lot of interest in Hawaiian agriculture for many years, I've only been here three. I've been able to between the local people and the university experts get a long ways towards what I need to understand for ranching here. They're available. I think that's the thing you need a lot of. If I was to look at a way to help agriculture, I would say that in the Department of Economic

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Development, if you would put one or two people and their only job is agriculture and developing marketing and developing the economics of agriculture. I think the knowledge for production is there, that there's a good extension agent from the university on each island. They can do a lot toward getting you connected to the right person with the university for expert advice. I've also, you know, there's been some things that I just talked to a few people around here to find out. One of the things I was looking at are mushrooms. Well, I did some consulting with some people on the mainland, but then I found out there's a guy here that I went and met with here up by Makawao, that between the two of them they told everything I needed to know and they were very helpful. They wanted to be kind of guarded about what they wanted to tell me, but in the end, they pretty well just told me everything I needed to know. At that point, I decided it looks like too much work for this cowboy. But I think...

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Lammers?

MR. LAMMERS: Is there a question?

CHAIR SINENCI: Duane, can you explain the slide, it looks like from the figure --

MR. LAMMERS: The slide...

CHAIR SINENCI: --at the top, the scale is it looks like two shipping containers.

MR. LAMMERS: The slide is two 40-foot containers side by side, and basically, it's designed so for instance right now all the guts and hides and everything else, and bones are composted. The thing about a rendering plant is you actually can generate...so basically all that material goes into this system. You generate chicken and feed and feed for pigs and pets. It does have...it can have a little bit of an odor to it as you might guess so placement of it is important. But I think right now just to give you an idea, soybean meal which is pretty close to the same protein as this product, this product has a little higher protein and has higher fat so it has more energy. Soybean meal on the mainland is about \$209 here it's about \$1,000 a ton. I mean bone meal on the mainland is about \$200 and so here comparably you could say it's 700, but the thing is we would...a lot of . . . *(inaudible)* . . . is being put into the landfill, it's not being utilized at all. It's not necessarily being composted. So, the other thing about this rendering plant idea is I actually did some research, I actually did a project, and we tested the rendering and this product is perfect for flowering plants for fertilizer. And as you might guess almost everything that fruits flowers. So, we did this on a few different items and more than doubled the production off similar plants. The one thing about using this as a fertilizer is that it...you don't have to worry about putting too much on, you're not going to burn it like some, you know, inorganic fertilizers. It's an organic product. The best little bit, part of this thing is you basically put in all the meat, all the bones, it's ground, it's dried into a powder, and from there like I said, it can go into meat products of one kind or another.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Duane.

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MR. LAMMERS: I guess I tried to keep it pretty short because I know you guys have other things to do. If there's any quick questions, I'll certainly be able to elaborate on it.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Duane, can you hang tight for a couple minutes? We've got one more presentation from Mr. Crawford and then we'll have some...I know you're busy as well, then we'll have some questions from the Members that need to leave early. Mr. Crawford, can you...aloha, Scott. Can you share your screen?

MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. I can. Let's see if I can do this and I'm going to put...okay. I may need to...it seems like I might need to restart the app to share my screen. So...

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Chair, I can share the PowerPoint if you need.

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, it's only five slides so maybe you can just share it and I'll just talk about that in the beginning --

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Sure.

MR. CRAWFORD: --to give a little overview.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Kasie.

MR. CRAWFORD: So, aloha, Chair Sinenci and Members of the Committee. Thank you for inviting me to come on and share some information about our efforts here in Hana for food security. And I'm, my name's Scott Crawford and I'm...just to clarify my title I'm a director on the board of the Hana Chapter for the Hawaii Farmers Union United rather than the executive director. And I wanted to just give a little bit of overview about the farmer's market which was converted to an online farmer's market during the pandemic, and then as Chair Sinenci asked me to just discuss a little bit a couple of the challenges that we've had with the Department of Health in this model of food distribution. So, the first slide is just in early February as a project of the HFUU Hana Chapter, we launched the Hana Farmer's Market and it was immediately successful. The vendors really did well and really appreciated it, and the shoppers loved being able to get local food, and it was a nice social scene in town and was really a good event and successful right from the beginning. But after going for only five weeks then the pandemic started and so we decided for out of an abundance of caution, we would suspend the physical market so, you know, to not give people a reason to gather. And with the support of the Farmers Union including with some funding from the Council through the Office of Economic Development which we very much appreciate, we were able to put on...to put together an online platform for ordering and basically just take the farmer's market and put it online. And, you know, our goal with the farmer's market is to connect local producers in our remote region with...and that's growers and value-added producers with the consumers, the local consumers, to be able to provide a market and income for the local growers and producers and to provide access to affordable, nutritious, local food for the consumers. And so, you can go on

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to the next slide. This is just a sample of the top, we have over 20 producers and over about 100 to 150 products depending on the week that we offer for sale on the online market, and we have a weekly drive-thru pickup. So, you can go on to the next slide. And we were...the hotel...the farmer's market was originally located on hotel property in the Hana Town Center, and because the hotel itself was closed, they very generously offered for us to be able to use their cold storage space and to have the entryway of the hotel serve as our pickup area. So, basically every Friday afternoon, we do a drive-thru pickup. And you can go to the next slide. And this is basically what our aggregation looks like. We have crates with each...milk crates for each person's orders, and then we have, you know, coolers with stuff that needs to stay chilled. And then go to the next slide. And this is just some...two different views of the drive-thru pickup. And then on the bottom left is Lehua Park. We also partnered Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike and Mahele Farm and their Ku'i project. So, they do the distribution to the kupuna at the same time. And they have produce bags, papayas, and cooked kalo that they distribute. And so, we partnered up with them and they do their distribution at the same time. So, basically we've...we're part of the Maui Food Hub's project, but we're doing it in Hana in a way that's, that serves the needs of our particular community. And the two main services that we're providing in this online market beyond the physical market--excuse me--are the, basically payment processing and we don't charge any markup for the farmers so we're essentially just passing along the products to the consumers without any markup. And then the aggregation and distribution so that people can do a drive-thru pickup and basically be able to get the local products with a minimum of, you know, social contact. And have tried to avoid people having to go to the store, you know, minimize the amount of people having to go to store, drive to the other side for Costco or other markets by being able to get their products locally. One of the products that we have thankfully too with our...is with the support of the Hana Ranch is ground beef through Maui Cattle Company. We also have local fishermen and other producers so we have proteins and various other value-added products, as well as the produce and different kind of vegetable and fruit products and stuff. So, that's basically the overview of what we're doing and how the Hana Farmer's Market has kind of just evolved into this, at least during the pandemic having this online service and this drive-thru pickup. At some point pretty soon, we're probably going to restart the physical market and then have kind of an integrated hybrid between the two where people can still order online. And I think that, you know, there's a lot of people who really...the feedback that we've gotten from both the producers and the shoppers is that, you know, this is one of the those things that it was having this situation with the COVID that stimulated us, you know, to set this up, but then we realized that it really is a valuable service that, you know, we want to continue afterwards and having the infrastructure in place for it. For the growers, it allows them to have like preorders basically so instead of coming to the farmer's market and you're kind of guessing how much you're going to sell and how much should you bring and then you have the leftovers you have to take home, they really like having preorders where they just come drop off what they...what has been ordered and it's very simple for them. And then for the shoppers it's easy, you know, to just go . . .(inaudible). . . their order and then on the Friday come and pick it up and be able to just go drive through, get their groceries for the week without having

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to go to the store. So, it's a model that we want to be able to carry forward and expand on. We see a lot of ways that we can expand with more value-added products, and every week we have new producers who are wanting to come and join the market. But that leads to the final aspect is just a couple of the challenges that we've had with the DOH, and basically, I think it just comes from this particular model, what really wasn't foreseen in putting together the rules of the DOH for food safety. And of course we really, you know, value food safety and know that the rules are there for a reason. But technically because we're seen as a reseller, and so the cottage industry products that would be fine to be sold at the physical farmer's market directly from the producer to the consumer or sold in a roadside farm stand, we're not allowed to sell because it's considered...well, because we're considered a reseller. So, but rather than being like a, you know, a retail store, basically we're just providing the payment processing and the aggregation where the products only come into our possession for a few hours in the process of coming from the producer to the consumer. And we're actually providing the service of minimizing the social contact in that process. So, the, you know, by the book, Department of Health code says that we're not supposed to be doing that for a lot of these products because we're technically a reseller. But in that sense it seems to be counterproductive, because we're actually serving the public health in this way by providing good source of nutritious food, enhancing food security, and minimizing social contact. And so, I think it's just something to look at. There's kind of this middle space between a direct to seller...direct to consumer sales versus the farmers...versus the farmers...versus, you know, a retail outlet. So, that's something to consider that we've come up against in this model. The other thing I just want to mention real quick is the limitation on a larger scale of value-added processing in East Maui is the wastewater situation with certified kitchen. We've been working for years, talking about developing certified kitchens or a food innovation center for Hana, and we're just...one of the real limiting factors is the fact that we're all on septic systems out here, and so the way that the calculation is done for wastewater through the Department of Health and there's only one person on Maui who has to do it for the whole island. So, it's just a bottleneck and it's very limiting in terms of what we can think of to be able to support our value-added processors and many people now who are really looking towards the alternates and coming up with ideas and wanting to develop their products, and that's just a limit that I think we need to examine and figure out how we can make that work for our East Maui region. So, with that I'll conclude and happy to take any questions afterwards. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Crawford. Members, it looks like we lost our two that was going to be at the press conference. Just to get a feel, were you guys wanting to be part of that press conference as well? Do the Members?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm kind of watching it on the side but I have so much questions.

CHAIR SINENCI: I know, this is a great panel, great information, and, you know, it was supposed to get you all jarred up for next week. So, we've definitely done our part in doing so. So, but we can...if it's okay if you guys want to take a, you know, a couple

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questions, I'm open to the will of this body. Did we lose...do we still have quorum? We lost...we have four of us. Okay. So, okay, thanks for staying on. Oh, we have five. Okay. So, Ms. Paltin, did you have a couple questions for the panelists?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. I think if I could start off with just Mr. Crawford at first. I was wondering if...

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, we'll do two-minute rounds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, cool.

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering what day of the week that the pickup and delivery is on? You have kind of a hub system here, but it's like you order Tuesday and pickup Saturday, and like for me Saturday is super inconvenient to pick up.

MR. CRAWFORD: Well, ours is Friday afternoons. We set the farmer's market up for Friday afternoon, because that's the time when the post office and the bank are open, the bank is open the longest in Hana. And it's sort of the main time when everybody comes into town and people have their paychecks. And so, when we set up the online market, we just kept the same basic time slot so Friday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 is when we do our delivery. And the cutoff time for ordering is Tuesday morning at nine o'clock so that gives us time to get the orders out to the producers, and then they bring it Friday morning, the producers bring it to the hotel for us to do the aggregation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do...does anyone feel like not...like for me it's kind of hard to get used to thinking so far ahead on Tuesday to get the order in by Friday, but I want to support, you know.

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, that is a challenge with some people. I think, you know, you're used to just going to the store and ordering what you need so you do have to think ahead a little bit. But, you know, it's just kind of making a new habit and once people get the idea of it, we have just a regular...we have new customers coming on every week and we have a real regular core of people that just, you know, order every week and really use this to do their shopping.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. That's probably my two minutes or over.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, you had a couple seconds. Okay, mahalo, Member Paltin. Mr. Molina, did you have any questions for the panelists?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, much mahalo to our three panelists, a lot of interesting information. And in testimony, Mr. Greenleaf mentioned about the possibility or looking towards that direction of developing food

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products that we can export on a large scale. So, I want to get responses back from each of our three panelists. I really like that concept, so not only about taking care of ourselves but what we can do to take care of others, and that way, you know, we have sustainable businesses that can, you know, produce and manufacture whatever it be, crops or livestock. Can I get a response from each of our presenters on that?

CHAIR SINENCI: Jen, did you want to start?

MS. KARACA: So, I think exports are a really important portion of the economy, but I think right now where we're at is really focusing to make sure that our community needs are met first and then seeing how much we viably can export. I feel like there are so many different kinds of agriculture on different scales that the smaller agriculture can focus more on feeding the local community. And then we can also use the smaller agricultural operations to help supplement the larger demands for commercial agriculture, and that's what the large-scale farmers can focus on too is exports. But there's so many different things that we could export from textiles to medicinals, personal care products, beauty care products, different food products, dried goods, beverages, snacks. There's endless possibilities really of exports.

CHAIR SINENCI: Duane or Scotty?

MS. KARACA: Did that answer your question?

MR. LAMMERS: Yeah, this is Duane Lammers. I, I mean right now there's some people from Hana that ship flowers, you know, every week to the mainland. And I think the other thing that I look at when I look at one of the crops we raise is ulu. I actually think and my short background with that is that I think it's got potential to be a very big crop for the future for many reasons. And I think there's going to be things that we could create from that ulu that would be value-added that would probably sell the best. Well, I think if people experience it here in Hawaii, I think we can then sell it on the mainland. I think there's...we've looked at some value-added products I think would sell very well there. I think there's...I mean right now there's somebody with pohole that they...I think that's how you pronounce it, that they ship...they have been shipping every week. So, there's a lot of products shipped from here to the mainland now, more than probably some people realize. But I think there's more we could do and I agree a lot of it we should be self-sustaining or should be a key factor. For anything we've got, you know, just to resemble what we're going through now. You know have to be able to, you know, reassess and change. But I think there's definitely potential and I think it's a higher end, some of the higher end products so we can look at shipping. But I think also the more things we can ship that are light. As we all know shipping costs are high, and so those things that we can develop that are either dried or light, could be packaged easily have great potential for export. And I think those are definitely things. We have a unique...we're recognized I think, I come from the buffalo industry or bison industry, and the thing about bison is everybody kind of thinks it's healthy no matter what. So, it just has an image of that. And I think one of the things that Hawaii has as an image is it's a healthy environment, it's a healthy

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place for food. And I think that is one of the things that we can market to the mainland in many ways. And I'm sure you're all aware of the people who use Hawaiian names on the mainland to market their things because of that. So, I guess I really don't have anything more to elaborate on, but I agree with those things.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Duane. Scott, you want to chime in?

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, and I don't have too much to add beyond what Jennifer and Duane already said, but I would say that, you know, in general for me, the top priority is like import substitution and producing for our own...filling the gaps in our own system and making sure that we can feed our own communities first. But I think that there is room, there's definitely places where certain products could be grown for export and bring revenue into the State. And, you know, ulu is maybe a good example of that, but in order to do that, you need the processing capacity, you need the facilities to be able to turn things into value-added products that, you know, that have shelf life and that have more value. So, that's basically my thoughts on that in a summary.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: All right. Well, thank you very much for all of your responses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Molina. Next we have Pro Temp and Committee Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I'm sorry but my cursor is not acting up right today, it always seems to be somewhere else. But I don't have any questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Sugimura, do you have any questions for the panelists?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I really...thank you. Thank you, Chair. I really appreciate all this talent and especially from Hana. I've seen you in the community but I'm glad to share this time. Mr. Lammers from Hana, I'm glad to hear what you had to say about CTAHR as they are definitely an educational and, you know, source of information. And I think, I hope more people use them, because that's what they are, you know, very helpful in the community. Have you used Dr. Caires or spoke with Dr. Caires, Kyle Caires?

MR. LAMMERS: I've met with Kyle, but also Mark Thorne, I've actually talked to some people in the energy field with CTAHR. I think the one thing I think CTAHR is great, but I think they could use some more funding from the State. You know, they could use...I mean they've been doing some things here lately as far as helping with marketing and so forth through events and webinars . . .(inaudible). . . webinars that Mark Thorne and I forget the gal's...I know Mark the best. He's a . . .(inaudible). . . specialist. There's a gal on Kauai, couple other people from Big Island, he put together combinations of, related to economics, related to marketing. You know, so they've

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been working a lot of that. Again, CTAHR has been good for me. Back...one of the first people I ever met was . . .*(inaudible)*. . . back in the '90s, oh, I can't think of his name now, he's now retired, but I spent some time, different times talking to him over the years. And like I say I come from . . .*(inaudible)*. . . university system, I understand extension agents, I understand the universities. I think they're a good way...my experience with ag departments, doesn't matter if it's state or whatever is they're more political. It's more about, you know, if we wanted to do a state inspection system, it's more we have to go through them to get support. When you start getting into the management, marketing, production, it's the universities, the extension agents, that kind of thing really help you through that, those key things.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Mr. Crawford, I...the system that you have setup in Hana for the food drive. Is that Hawaii Farmers Union that hub system that they developed through this COVID? I think the County gave Hawaii Farmers Union funding and that's how they utilized their funding. Is that correct?

MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, that was part of the funding that came from the County through the Farmers Union came to the Hana Chapter. So, we set up our online farmer's market sort of food hub for our community that's, you know, related to the overall food hub project, but it's just we did it in a way that made sense for our specific needs here in Hana. And in having this...in order to be able to put the platform in place and kind of do the setup and the operation during the pandemic is what allows us to be able to pass, you know, to provide the service for the farmers and the consumers without a markup. So, we're not trying to pay for the operation of it through, you know, through a markup. So, at least during the time of the pandemic, we're, you know, we're keeping the food as affordable as possible and putting all that, all of the, you know, consumers' money in the pockets of the farmers.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That's fabulous. That's great utilization of the COVID funds that were or emergency funds that were provided to Hawaii Farmers Union. I'm excited to see how you used it. So, congratulations on that, Scott. Good job.

MR. CRAWFORD: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And then you conformed it to fit your community and that's how it's going to be sustaining. So, Jennifer, your slides were fabulous, it was exciting, and it was actually nice, beautiful. Do you have...did you provide it for us or could you?

MS. KARACA: Yes. The presentation is submitted to Legistar so you guys have that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. KARACA: And I'm...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's under the --

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MS. KARACA: . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --Terese Masters on Granicus.

MS. KARACA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. Thank you very much. That's it.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, everybody.

CHAIR SINENCI: --Member Sugimura. Just as a question for Mr. Molina. I know next week we have the issue up in GET. Should the written testimony be forwarded to GET Committee?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Sure, yes. Mr. Chairman, we welcome all written testimony, and of course if any of our presenters wanted to come and do live testimony as well, that's certainly welcome. You know as you know, we're going to be taking as many proposed Charter amendments as possible so it will be pretty much an all-day affair. So yeah, certainly welcome additional testimony and insight on the proposed Charter amendment to create a department of agriculture.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Molina. And then for...Member King had to leave for the conference but she had a question for Mr. Lammers. If the rendering plant, the plant that he showed on the slide was up and running? Or is it still in conceptual phase?

MR. LAMMERS: They have both plants running but not...there's examples out there I think if we were truly interested. I think it's something that would take certainly a lot more investigation to make sure it's got viability here. I look at it as, you know, part of the utilization that...and to a higher degree. But they are...there are currently operational setups like that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. I will forward that comments to her. Members, are there any other questions of our panelists? We have one more from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi. Did you call me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. My question is for Ms. Karaca. I was reading the link that you posted in the chat, and I just was wondering as somebody that is ma`a to the County, how our departments are and posted the link to the resolution. It only really says that there shall be a director and a deputy director and like the necessary staff I think, and organized to fulfill department's powers, duties, and functions. And I was wondering if you had an idea as to further the structure of like how much people would be needed and things like that?

MS. KARACA: Yeah. So, I'm in the process of kind of working up a proposed like mock budget for the department to submit that would kind of breakdown the number of positions that could be kind of barebones. The resolution also proposes that we take a full year before it goes into effect in 2022. So, that would allow the County really to take some time to start securing more funding from Federal and State agencies, credit foundations, and also accumulate a really significant pool of applicants for the different positions so that we make sure that we get the best and brightest people in there, to really push this thing forward, because it is, it's a huge and complicated issue and there's so many areas that need assistance that I don't think that the County could just make it happen by next year. So, I think taking that year to really start working towards that and then also, you know, we're seeing the \$2.5 million that the Councilmembers have allocated already, and, you know, putting as many programs into place as possible before that department gets into or becomes established is important too, like Councilmember Tasha Kama was saying. So, I'll work up that budget and the positions for the next meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Have you been looking at other counties that have similar types of things? Like maybe not exactly but I think I shared with you that County of Hawaii in their research and development department, has an ag and food systems section. Are you looking at other places where they have those types of programs or sections, divisions, departments as well?

MS. KARACA: Yeah, I've actually been talking with people from other counties here too including Russell Ruderman who is, you know, thinks that Maui starting a department of agriculture is exactly what we need for the push for all counties to follow suit. He thinks that we're all kind of in the same boat and we really need progressive measures to kind of get our communities to where we need to be. I've looked at some counties on the mainland that have departments of ag, and they focus a lot more on the similar issues that our State Department of Agriculture focuses on, like weights and measurements and inspections of restricted-use materials, rabies control, plant and pest control. So, I'd like to see our department coordinate with the State on those efforts and be able to free up some resources so that they can really focus on those programs, but then also expand our program so that we're really meeting our local needs and developing a robust agricultural sector for our regional food system.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I guess one of my last questions would be I was looking through the slides and I didn't see a specific mention of like hemp or things like that. Is that just because there's too much things that you didn't list everything or do you see that as being a part of our . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MS. KARACA: Yeah. I mean it was...it's slides of different things that we could look at and I had to hold back so much. I could literally go on and on about the possibilities of what we can grow here. There's such a huge plethora of options. Hemp is one and hemp would...hemp can be used for medicinal properties, food and nutrition supplements, it can be used for construction materials, clothing materials. You can make drinks out of it. I mean really like they have hemp plastics. There are just...if I got into every single one of them, I would talk your ear off for months. So, I try to scale it back. But yes, there's just so many more that can be included.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if I could just ask one more question. You know like in the conversation of value-added products and like growing food and like farm-to-table or farm-to-school or whatever, like a lot of people like healthy food and grown food, but some of us are not really good cooks. And like if you look at it holistically like if there could be like a value-added, like some sort of like a kitchen, community kitchen where it's all these locally produced foods and maybe like, I don't know, you could even go like cooking show direction like how they have those little apps where they show you how. And then like maybe membership and like, you know, everybody after canoe practice, you pay your membership dues and it comes with a meal and we got so much awesome chefs, you know, that even right now aren't working. And like, you know, 'cause, you know, when we used to pau canoe practice and everybody going home, cook rice and you're all tired already, but it could be like a big community thing where, you know, you can discuss current events and political things and have healthy food, and it's like just a full circle of farm to table to community to healthy and everything like that. Is that on your radar at all?

MS. KARACA: Yeah, I think that health and nutrition is a huge part of food security and changing the palates of people and how they eat is important. I know when I was teaching agriculture at Kalama where Mike Molina also substitutes, we wanted to get the kids to eat healthier, but, you know, at first they were like ah, vegetables, they didn't want to touch it. A lot of them had never used knives before. So, what we did was we did experiments with things in the garden, and basically, we put on a pot of rice and we'd make chili's, the kids would make stir-fries. We taught them how to switch out the regular soy sauce for Braggs which is a nutritional supplement. And by the end of the year, the kids were like begging to make stir-fries with daikon radishes and basils and garlics, and you know, some of the parents were like how does my kid know what a daikon radish is, why are they telling me to pick it up at the grocery store? So, it is possible to change the local, you know, the palates of...and we're talking about sixth grade so these are kids that really want nothing to do with vegetables, and they're chugging Monster's at six o'clock in the morning. So, I think it's completely possible if we take chefs and we take...through more community engagement that we can change the ideas of what we pick up at the grocery store and

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what we're able to cook. But I think a lot of the times it's inexperience, it's cost prohibitive for some families to buy fresh organic produce. So, looking at programs like Double Bucks and things like to make it more affordable and to have that guidance and kind of easy ways to make that transition I think is completely doable.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Awesome, cool. Thank you, Chair, for your indulgence.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Paltin. And mahalo, Members, for sticking in with us, your diligence. And also wanted to mahalo our esteemed panelists, Ms. Karaca, Mr. Lammers, and Mr. Crawford for being here, sharing your expertise with us as we go through this process. We can definitely feel your passion in your work, so again mahalo. With that, Members, if there are no objections, the Chair would like to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused KTK and ALL)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Members. With that, this Tuesday, June 16th meeting of the EACP Committee is now adjourned. Aloha, everybody. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 4:25 p.m.

APPROVED:


SHANE M. SINENCI, Chair
Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural
Preservation Committee

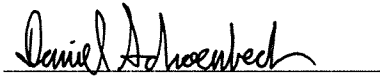
**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui**

June 16, 2020

CERTIFICATE

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

DATED the 6th day of July, 2020, in Kula, Hawaii



Daniel Schoenbeck