

COUNCIL CHAIR'S MEETING

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

November 23, 2022

Online Only via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 10:01 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Chair
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair, and Chair,
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Presiding Officer Pro Tempore, and Chair,
Human Concerns and Parks Committee
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Chair, Affordable Housing Committee
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Chair, Climate Action, Resilience, and
Environment Committee
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Chair, Planning and Sustainable Land Use
Committee (In at 10:51 a.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair, Agriculture and Public Trust
Committee
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair, Infrastructure and
Transportation Committee

EXCUSED: Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Chair, Government Relations, Ethics,
and Transparency Committee

STAFF: Traci N.T. Fujita, Director, Office of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional Staff:

Office of Council Services:

Shelly K. Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst
Marlene Rebugio, Support Supervisor
Laksmi M. Abraham, Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst
James Forrest, Legislative Attorney
Nālani Fujihara, Hawaiian Language Communications Specialist
Eric Abe, Council Services Technician
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary
Wilton Leauanae, Legislative Analyst
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney

Office of the County Clerk:

Kathy Kaohu, County Clerk
Lauren Saldana, Assistant Clerk to the County Council

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Executive Assistants for Presiding Officer Pro Tempore Tasha Kama:

Evan Dust
Davideane Lei Sickels
Lois Whitney

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Kate Griffiths
Roxanne Morita

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Kelly Takaya King:

Axel Beers
Ellen McKinley

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Michael J. Molina:

Laura McDowell

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:

Angela Lucero
Christi Keliikoa

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:

Miki Yokouchi

District Office Staff:

Daniel Kanahale, South Maui District Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia District Office
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, East Maui District Office

OTHERS: Others (3)

CHAIR LEE: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Chair's meeting please come to order. Good morning, everyone. We have a short agenda, and I know most of you are very, very busy with year-end activities. Oh, I see Member Kama...okay. Everybody please...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, good morning, Chair. Busy, busy --

CHAIR LEE: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- morning today.

CHAIR LEE: Yes. We didn't have roll call yet. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, good, good, because good news, good news. I just got a email from Corp. Counsel that they're moving my...my prep from 11:15 to 1:30. So, I can stay with all of you here this morning. Isn't that wonderful?

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CHAIR LEE: It's wonderful, but I don't think we're going to be here that long.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, I'm going to miss you guys.

CHAIR LEE: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Anyway, but no, no.

CHAIR LEE: You can take a long lunch.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, yeah. So, you can go ahead and use your...get to your agenda item first, Chair. Thank you --

CHAIR LEE: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- for the --

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- consideration.

CHAIR LEE: All right. So, will the meeting come to order. It is about 10:02 now. Asking all of you to silence your phones, your cell phones. And Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. My name is Alice Lee, I'm your Chair. And the next person would be Vice-Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and my fellow Councilmembers. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office, alone at the office, and there are no testifiers here. And I think that's everything. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Great. I...I forgot to mention that I'm home alone in my workspace as well. Next person would be Pro Tem Tasha Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and to all of my colleagues on the Chair's meeting this morning. I'm here in my workspace, and I am alone, and wanting to wish everyone a happy gobble-gobble tomorrow. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Member Johnson. Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers, Committee Members. I am alone in my workspace, and there are no testifiers at the Lāna'i district greeting so...or district office, and I didn't hear a greeting, so, ohayo gozaimasu mina-san. Thank you.

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CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Good morning as well. Because we normally don't have a greeting on...for Chair's meetings. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Just habit.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. And may I ask...I...I know you're going to be leaving on a trip soon. When will you be gone actually?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Are you asking me, Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, I thought it was December, but the whole December or part of December?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

CHAIR LEE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't know.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay. So, you're going to be back, you're going to be here on Lānaʻi?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, I think maybe like...yeah, I don't plan to go any...any trips or vacations. Maybe December 8th or 9th, I might, you know, go off grid for a bit, but I'll still be on island. Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay. All right. Just checking. All right. And now we have our world traveler, Member Kelly Takaya King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Ohayo gozaimasu mina-san, and aloha kakahiaka. I'm...I'm really happy to be here after my first good night's sleep in a couple weeks. Thanks to melatonin, it's a really good herbal sleeping aide. But I'm in my home workspace this morning. We have no testifiers at the South Maui District Office unless Daniel makes a last-minute decision and decides to come on anonymously. But also, I will be...I will be off island again, I was asked to attend COP15 on biodiversity, which is Montreal next month, and they...they're flying me over from the 9th through the 13th of December. So, other than that, I should be here most of next month. And happy to be joining the Chair's meeting. I'm really looking forward to the update on the Youth Council.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Member Molina is excused. Traci, did we hear from Member Molina? I think he asked to be excused, right?

MS. FUJITA: I...I'm not aware.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Well, he's excused for now. And so, Member Paltin is excused. Member Shane Sinenci.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha and xin chao, Chair. Happy to join this morning's meeting from our Hāna District Office with my EA Dawn Lono, and there are no testifiers, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. And finally, we have Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, everybody, from Kula, and nice to see all of you. Have a nice Thanksgiving.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you. All right. Now, let's get start...oh, our Staff today will be the Director of Council Services Traci Fujita; Maria Leon, our Committee Secretary; and Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Good morning, ladies. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Now, let's begin with public testimony.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR LEE: Oral testimony via phone or video conference. Traci, do we have anybody signed up to testify?

MS. FUJITA: There's one person by the name of Kate signed up. We're not sure if that person is signed up to testify, or if they're just observing the meeting.

CHAIR LEE: Can you check? Because that way I don't have to go through the whole narrative.

MS. FUJITA: Right. Kate, are you here to testify or just observe the meeting? And this is different from the EA Kate, this is a different person. Okay. No response. So, I'm assuming they're just observing the meeting.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Okay. So, we will...apparently don't have anybody to testify at the beginning, but we may have throughout. So, let's see, what is our first item? So, Member Kama, we don't...we don't need to revise the schedules to have --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Correct.

CHAIR LEE: -- your item first?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Correct.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair, for that consideration.

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ITEM 1. SCREENING MACHINE FOR THE 2ND FLOOR ENTRY AREA, KALANA O MAUI
(Council Chair)

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So, then the first item is the Screening Machine for the 2nd Floor Entry Area, Kalana O Maui. And this is...I think we had a presentation on this a few years ago, and we decided not to go forward with it. But with all the issues surrounding, you know, violence and...and people getting out of hand with the elections and so forth, well, we may want to revisit this. And so what would happen is there would be a screening machine on the 2nd floor that would be administered by the Mayor's Office, I believe, and the security person in charge is Blake Takayama. And so, are you folks interested in proceeding with this, or you have concerns, you wanted more information? Any questions, Members? Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I'm interested in pursuing that, and...and looking at it. Is...is Administration saying that it's something that they want to do, or is this just something that popped up as a thought from us?

CHAIR LEE: Actually, it didn't pop up. I think that machine has been sitting dormant for like two years now because we didn't feel it was necessary before. And plus, we were in COVID, yeah. But now, with...with all the activities and...you know, of recent days and weeks and months, here's an opportunity to have an extra layer of security, which would be administered by the Administration on the 2nd Floor. If you want to pursue this, then we can...we can ask for a presentation next time.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. That's good. Thank you. Interested.

CHAIR LEE: Member Kama, then Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I am really interested because I think...I remember we did purchase the machine; the machine is sitting on the 2nd Floor. It's kind of like it's a wasted asset, right? We have this asset we're not using. And...and you're correct, with the amount of violence that's going on, I think we need to protect everyone in this building. So, I'd like to continue looking and talking about this at the next time and bring it to fruition. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I just want to give some background because I think this came from the previous Mayor. This...or...or...and I don't know if it was a request that came from him, or it was brought up by the...the...by Mike White, who was Chair at that time, or...I'm not sure whose...whose original idea it was. But it...the...the whole issue of screening came up during my first term. I was not particularly in favor of it because I don't think that people want to be screened when they come into the County Building, but, you know, I'm not going to make an opinion for going forward because I won't be here. And, you know, of course, I want you folks to feel safe if you feel like that's what's needed. But I do want to share with you that...something that's happening on the other islands that we just talked about at HSAC regarding safety

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yesterday. And Big Island has passed, and...and O'ahu is now trying to pass what they call a safe zone, or a secure zone, or something like that, which is disallowing guns or any kind of weapons in all public facilities and things like churches and schools. And so, in light of what's happening nationally with gun laws, they are trying to make a county ordinance that...that gives...that...that prohibits the carrying of guns into some of these types of buildings, and also, allows certain business...any...any private businesses who want to do that to disallow guns as well, and to put up a placard in their windows that say no guns allowed. And they actually have a graphic for that. So, they are trying to move ahead on, you know, creating the safety in other ways. So, I just wanted to share that with you. One of the ideas that...and Heather Kimball said they would have had this passed on their council, except the only...on the final reading, they only had five members show up, so, they couldn't get this particular aspect. But one of the aspects that the Honolulu Council is going to try to pass is requiring all businesses that allow guns to put up placards and say guns allowed here, which would give you an indication of whether you want to go into that business or not, or that building or not. And that was...of course, the NRA was very strong in fighting against that. And...and most of the opposition that...most of the testimony that showed up for their meetings was in opposition because they said people who were...who were against guns and wanted the ordinance were afraid to show up because they were intimidated by the...the heavy presence of the NRA. So, I just wanted to share that background with you. That might be another avenue to go in...in terms of safety is...is following along the Big Island and Honolulu Council with these ordinances. But, you know, how...whatever you decide to do on the screening machine. I just...for me, I just felt like it was invasive to people trying to come into...you know, and especially at the same time, we closed off...we...we used to leave...even though it said it wasn't supposed to be open, we used to leave the back door open on the ground floor. And so, we...we...that was when we started closing that back door, and then the only way people could come in was through...on the 2nd Floor, and then there was no option, so they had to be screened. And...and, you know, there were some people who were offended by that. So, I'll just leave it at that. And, you know, you guys are...you have to do what you need to do for the upcoming term.

CHAIR LEE: Well, thank you for that update on the other counties. Other people have comments or questions on this item? Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, in...in that term that Member King was talking about, I did testify against it, and then when it...when I became a Councilmember, I voted against setting that...that system up. So, it...it's not just an asset sitting there. In order to make the whole screening process work, you have to hire people, and so you have to spend more money in...in having it run. It's not...you wouldn't just plug it in and...and it would just run on its own. You need to pay more money into making it work. So, I just wanted to add that because it was...I think it fell under Corporation Counsel, so we would have to add personnel and add bodies. It would...it would be more money, not just the asset that is sitting there. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any other comments? If not, any objections to deferring this item? Because we're not voting on it anyway.

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COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. I just wanted to take the temperature on this one.

ITEM 2. SHARED INFORMATION DATABASE (Councilmember Kama)

CHAIR LEE: Now, Shared Information Database. Pro Tem Kama?

MS. FUJITA: Chair? Sorry, this is Traci.

CHAIR LEE: Yes?

MS. FUJITA: We...we do have another person that may be testifying by the name of...

CHAIR LEE: Oh, you want to check?

MS. FUJITA: Yeah. Mei. I did try to direct message, but I haven't gotten...received a response yet. Mei, if you're here to testify, please turn on your video and mic at this time. No response. So, I'm assuming that that person is just observing. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Or they can testify later. On the...okay. So, on the Shared Information Database, Pro Tem Kama, you had a suggestion?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, I did, Chair. And thank you so very much for allowing me this opportunity to share something that I'm kind of little bit of excited about because I think that many of us in our offices go through the same thing, so...so, I kind of...kind of believe that, you know, we're always looking to seek improvements in the process and the procedures so that we can better serve our Maui County residents. So, I was thinking that we should maybe consider the establishment of a shared information database that could be an initial go-to source when all of our offices need to address inquiries from the public. Because I know sometimes I get so inundated with questions that sometimes I don't know what the answer is, and I got to go figure out who to go see. But having a centralized collection of information would improve service delivery for the residents by allowing for decreased time and effort to reply to all these inquiries, because it does take time. It also will provide for a consistent reply to every resident who makes the same inquiry to other Councilmembers and their offices. So, there's a lot of examples of shared information databases that we know that...that we probably use every day, and for many of us, the paper telephone directory that used to come every year only once a year was the earliest example of a fixed shared database. And anyone with access could look up the telephone number that they needed to know. The problem with that was with the fixed information database, if the information changes before the next publication, or the next year, chances are when you call that number, it would be a wrong number. But more recently, the website Wikipedia has replaced the encyclopedias of my youth. With Wikipedia, the information is provided by the contributors to the site, and those changes are added more, and is learned on a

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particular subject...topic. So, the Microsoft Teams messaging platform, which is provided within the legislative branch of Maui County to all computer users contains the ability to construct such a shared information database. The Teams Wiki app can be added to any team established within the Teams messaging platform. So, the following--and I think many of you have probably hopefully already received it here--is a screen capture of a Wiki entry that I use in my Council office. So, you see the picture of how, when inquiries come in, and how we put it into a topic, and then we just put some things about who we talk to, and what was the issue, and how that was resolved. So, in this example, there's only one entry in the Wiki, but using Microsoft Teams platform, anyone in the team can add, edit, or delete these Wiki entries. So, there's...there is no strong structure to the basic Teams Wiki app. Other platform packages may provide information databases with greater structure, but some of the features that we want to have in any shared structured information database could be by certain topic, by date, by keyword, or location. It may also be valuable to have an audit system to track the entry and editing of the information. But, you know, there's no immediate need to embark on specifying and obtaining a shared information database for the legislative branch, but I just believe that we should study the concept and work towards establishing one starting the new Council term. And maybe one immediate use would be the replacement of the telephone listing that needs to be maintained and distributed on a regular basis by Office of Council Services. So, if that information contained in a Wiki, whenever the number of...or changed with the Staff, or for any reason, that information would be instantly available to all authorized to access the Wiki. So, I welcome the comments and suggestions of my existing colleagues, and hope that we can work collaboratively on this project with our new colleagues in the new term in their office next year. Thank you so very much, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: That's just my suggestion.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Any questions, anybody? Yeah, it...this could be a helpful tool because we all some...well, sometimes everybody sends the very same question to all of us.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: So, Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Just thoughts.

CHAIR LEE: Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, just a thought because that does happen and, you know, I always get questions about the Sunshine Law from people and, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- we're...we're not supposed to answer questions with everybody

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else copied on it. So --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- maybe that's a cautionary for a shared database is, you know, you're going to...you really get a handle on what goes in there so that, you know, the Councilmembers aren't sharing information or thoughts on any of the information in the shared database, or even...even people who share thoughts to all the Councilmembers. You know, when you respond, you have to respond directly to that person and not on the database, otherwise you're violating Sunshine Law.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's the only thought I had on...on that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Good point. Anybody else? If not, we'll defer this item.

ITEM 3. UPDATE ON YOUTH COUNCIL (Councilmember King)

CHAIR LEE: And, let's see, the next item is the update on the Youth Council. So, do we have Axel here?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think we do.

CHAIR LEE: Axel, you're on the call to give us an update?

MR. BEERS: Yes. Yes, I'm here. Thank you, Chair. And aloha, everybody, and Happy Thanksgiving.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha. You too.

MR. BEERS: In keeping with the holiday, I just want to start by, you know, expressing thanks to my boss, Councilmember King, for kind of spearheading and moving along this project, and then also to you, Chair, for supporting this project, and all Councilmembers for supporting it, and then all you Councilmembers for coming and presenting to our Youth Council members. We received presentations and talks from all of you, and it was really illuminating. I didn't really set guidelines for those presentations, and I just kind of wanted to see what happened, and it was really interesting and unique to kind of hear all your different perspectives of how you approach the job. And I think the Youth Council members really learned a lot from that experience, so...so, thanks so much for sharing...sharing your time. The big...the big update today is that on December 5th at 1:30 p.m., we have reserved the Council Chambers for the final culminating activity of the Youth Council. So, remember, the big goal...

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: (claps hands silently).

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MR. BEERS: Yes, thank you. And thanks to Clerk Kathy Kaohu and the Chair for helping to reserve that. But the big culminating activity, again, is that these Youth Council members have kind of taken the time to research issues, talk to their peers, think about the issues that matter to them, and come up with policy proposals that they're expressing in resolution, or policy stances that they're expressing in resolution, or value statements. So, these resolutions will then come to the floor on that culminating day, and by a majority vote, these resolutions will be added to a youth legislative package that we would then hope to transmit to the County Council as a communication with those resolutions as exhibits. So, that is the culminating activity that we have planned for December 5th at 1:30 p.m. I'm asking students to show up at 12:00 p.m. We have nine resolutions from the Youth Council members so far, and they're really...really exciting and encouraging and inspiring. I think you'll be interested to see a lot of the topics that they've come up with, and the discussion that might proceed. I'm going to be serving as the Staff, or like the Clerk for the meeting, to help move them through the agenda, and I'll be preparing notes for those Youth Council members similar to how OCS prepares notes for you folks. We...I'm going to ask a few of you to prepare opening remarks if you are available to prepare opening remarks on that day. And on Tuesday, next week Tuesday, I hope to distribute the agenda with all of the resolutions attached to it, and to disseminate a press release about the event. And I'd like to share that with folks like, you know, youth...the MEO youth group, Coalition for Drug-Free Youth, the DOE, UH Maui College, to kind of invite folks in their cohort to perhaps come in and...and present testimony, or also attend and see the proceedings. So, that's kind of where we're at now. Things are about to wrap up. And, you know, if--the Youth Council was a pilot project just to see whether young people would take an interest in the issues they see in their community, and to see if they would be willing to engage in, you know, providing their input if given that opportunity--if that was the question of the pilot project, I would say by now, it's...it's a success. And so, the way I'm hoping to frame it to them when I meet with them today is just that, you know, this is an opportunity to kind of celebrate the work that they've done because they have already done the research, and they've already looked at issues that matter to them. They've talked to their peers, they've talked to family, and they have worked on drafting these resolutions. So, on that note, I'm very happy that I think that we moved forward successfully. Anyway, I'm here for any questions.

CHAIR LEE: Wonderful. Member King, and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you so much for all the work you did on this, Axel. It's been an excellent journey, and...I know for you, as well as for the students, and for us Councilmembers. I'm hoping all the Councilmembers can be there in person. I wonder if...if, Chair, maybe we could host a lunch for the students if they're going to be there at noon, you know, maybe in the back. That would be...I would be happy to do that through my office, or if you still have some Chair's funds and you want to do that.

CHAIR LEE: We're...we're already doing that. Axel --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh...

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CHAIR LEE: -- already...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

CHAIR LEE: Axel already requested it, and he's working with Mona on it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great. Great. So, hopefully the Councilmembers can be there, and then we can try to spend the lunch hour or half hour, however long, just trying to put them at ease for sitting in our chairs.

CHAIR LEE: My...my only concern is I think we're all invited to the blessing of the Ikaika Ohana project --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Kaiaulu o Kupuohi.

CHAIR LEE: -- West Maui. Isn't that the same day as the blessing?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, Ikaika Ohana in...in West Maui?

CHAIR LEE: I think so.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I don't know. But, you know what, we might want to call them up and see if they could change that date, you know, give the...the...

CHAIR LEE: Oh, but I think theirs is in the morning.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. Well...

CHAIR LEE: Like it...does anybody have their schedule handy? Is it like 9:00 or something? Axel, do you know?

MR. BEERS: Yeah, sorry. I'm just looking at our office calendar. It looks like it's at 10:00 a.m. --

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

MR. BEERS: -- but it's a hold, at least on our calendar, so I would have to confirm.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, our problem was that we...we're still waiting to find out what happens on November 30th because we were planning to have the...you know, the last CARE Committee meeting, and then we were told that if we can't because of the trial, then we can move it to the 5th. But maybe we can move it to the 4th if...if folks are willing to show up for that. But definitely...definitely want to be there at the lunch hour for the students in case they have questions, or last-minute jitters they would like to, you know, talk through. But I...I'm really excited about this...this opportunity for the students to...you know, just...just the...I think the...being in the Chambers and sitting

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in our seats and...oh, I was going to ask you, Axel, did they pick a Chair?

MR. BEERS: We have some nominations, we're going to proceed with that today.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MR. BEERS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Great. Well, I hope you are able to videotape some of this because it might be really interesting, you know, just to look back and see how they go through those motions. But yeah, I'm...I'm planning to be there, and I hope...I hope all the Councilmembers are planning to be there. And we're going to try to get as much media there as possible because I...I have talked to folks in the other councils who are interested in doing something like this as well. And every time I've mentioned it at any *(audio interference)* I've been at, and especially at COP, there's...there's a great appreciation and interest in what we're doing here and, you know, desire to replicate it, maybe around the world. So, yeah, you're going to be the spotlight, Axel, as, you know, the advisor for this project, and I think it's...it's just really exciting. So, thank you all...to all of you for supporting this.

CHAIR LEE: Of course.

MR. BEERS: And if I can just add really quick. Yeah, a couple of those kind of logistical stuff are yeah, providing meals for the students, arranging some travel. We have one student on Lānaʻi, so we're trying to iron that out. And then it's...it is a waiver day for Maui High School, so some of those students might also need a little help getting to the County Building. So, just a couple things to iron out on...on the logistical level that I'm working on as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And I can...Chair, if...I can help from my office funds if you don't have enough, but if you're willing to cover it, that's great. So, whatever you need from, you know --

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- *(audio interference)* support for expenses, I'm happy to do.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Member Kama, did you have your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, I did, Chair. Thank you so very much. Just had a couple of questions. First of all, in terms of the transportation, logistically, you could always, you know, call MEO for support, you know, if you need that, to pick up the kids at the school, drop them off, and whatever, but just wanted to put that out. But also, you

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know, this is a pilot program, and it was successful. I mean I would consider...I've met with the kids a couple of times. But...so, once it's out of a pilot stage, how do you institutionalize it? Do you have plans to do that? That's one question. Second thing is, you know, church...church groups have young...have...always have...they always have youth programs too, yeah, for their young people, and I know the churches that I associate with, they all have a youth component. So, at some point in time, I guess you're going to expand that horizon, which means to me, I look at when you want to move this forward, you can't do it all by yourself, Axel, and...and you can't do it working out of...maybe...I don't know, your office that you're probably not...I don't know. Anyway, just food for thought, but *(audio interference)*.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I can...I can respond to that --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- Member Kama. Yeah, thank you for that. Because that was the dream, was to make this...to institutionalize this project. It'll be up to the next Council, and I'm hoping that you folks can fund it as, you know, a formal organization...organizational or...or, you know, like you do with the...the new commissioners or...you know, and then fund it through that. Because I think it's going to be extremely valuable. And thank you for saying that it's already been successful because I...I think it has, it's just it's going to culminate. And, you know, the world will see it as successful when we have that actual meeting, and...and hopefully, we get some of the...the TV stations here. But I'm hoping...you know, can I share, Axel, that you did interview?

MR. BEERS: Probably not.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But I'm hoping Axel can continue with this project beyond the end of this year. And you know, the...whoever...whoever takes it up, I think it...you know, it should sit with the...as a commission or, you know, if you can institutionalize it, I think it...I think it should stay under the County Council and not go under the Administration because it is a practice in...in the legislative body. So, we're...what we're trying to do is elevate the younger generation to...to see themselves as leaders, you know, to sit in our chairs and to, you know, not be intimidated by it, and to understand how important it is that we're shaping the next generation to...to come up to leadership. So, I think that's how you can do it. I won't...you know, I won't be here, but I definitely will testify. If...if it comes up as an issue, I'll be here to testify in favor of it. And...and if you can keep it as some sort of institutionalized commission that has some funding and has, you know, a...support from OCS, I think it could continue as a...an ongoing annual event.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you for that response. And I'm so supportive of that too. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

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CHAIR LEE: I know we have another...another question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I guess after the end of this project, or the pilot, Axel will have a report so we can look at expenses. Just curious to see what kind of expenses you ran into, or challenges, and what kind of budget you actually think this needs. Thanks.

CHAIR LEE: Axel?

MR. BEERS: Yeah. So, yeah, I think...I do think that's a great idea. And thank you, Councilmember Kama, for the suggestion for MEO and...and church youth groups. So, when I distribute...when that press release comes out, if...you know, I know you all have networks within your own communities, that would be great if you could help share and...and get that through them. I think, Councilmember Sugimura, your question is really similar to Councilmember Kama's about how to institutionalize it. And I do think that there are...you know, there...you're right, Councilmember Kama, it's a lot to do on your own, and I think that...you know, my goal was to really not...not have much of a budget, and to try to do this, you know, as a single Staff member, just to kind of see what kind of time commitment, what kind of, you know, resource commitment it would really take so that in moving forward, whether through ordinance or whether trying to communicate with the Commission on Children and Youth, I could really give them a sense of, you know, what this might take, and the different possibilities of ways to take it forward. Like, you know, Honolulu has a...a board or commission...a commission that...that does things similar to how our boards and commissions operate, but there's also the very intensive kind of, you know, summer program that kind of we...we took, which allows different partnerships, like with the DOE, or with UHMC who said they might be willing to offer credit. So, there's a lot of different options there and things to explore, and I'm really hoping to have those conversations with either the next Council or the Commission on Children and Youth because I think that it's something that really should have conscious and helpful discussion, and really creating a program that can...that can go forward while not losing the momentum of what we've had right now.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And so also, just bear in mind that Axel did all of this--and maybe you can separate out the hours that you worked on the Youth Council--but did all this while supporting a lot of the work that, you know, the CARE Committee was doing and my office was doing. So, you...you may not...you may not find somebody as phenomenal as Axel Beers to...to run the next Youth Council, but, you know, if you can...if you can give everybody a sense, Axel, of how much time it took for you, if you...you know, if you were thinking about just the hours you spent on the Youth Council. Because there were times also that I was going to assign something to Axel and then, you know, knowing that he was working on the Youth Council, I gave it to someone else. But, you know, everything was done within the budget of my office, so, you know, if you just...if we...if we just get that report on how many hours you did, you can kind of get an...an idea that...you know, how one person could support this going forward on an annual basis.

CHAIR LEE: Member Kama?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for that, Member King. I...I...I wasn't even thinking about somebody else. I...I was just thinking if it's successful, why do you want to get somebody else. But in the event that that's...that that's the direction it goes, I think one of the things that Axel might want to put in his report is like...something like a job description. I mean, you know, putting...putting stuff out there is...is really great, but I think it takes a particular person to work with young people. So, what are those elements, or what are those...what does that like. And that would be really helpful, but I hope we won't need it at the next time. I'm hoping that Axel will be able to stay and maintain the...the continuity of it all...the relationship he's established with the Council, relationship he's established with the youth, and the relationships that he has already established in the community in terms of that. So, that's just my thoughts out loud, but thank you. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes, you're exactly right, Member Kama. Hopefully that will happen. And just...I just wanted to share with you too, that before my...my election to the...my third term, I actually had talked to Axel about this project in my...in the previous term because I'd been, you know, contemplating it for a while, and when he was still working as a reporter with the *MauiTime*. And I said maybe...you know, because I knew he was...he was also teaching, I...I actually asked him back then maybe you want to help me with this Youth Council. And so, when I brought him on to Staff, he was the perfect person and...because he had been teaching as well. So, there's...just the...the...you know, he just fit so well with this project that I don't think I could have found anybody better in the County to run it.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Thank you. Any more comments or questions? If not, thank you very much. Oh, questions...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Wait, Chair, just...just one last...just one last comment.

CHAIR LEE: We have...we have...okay. We have Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez first.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Go, go.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. No, I just...I just wanted to also extend my appreciation and commend Axel and Member King for the...this work. It's our youth, it's, you know, our most important resource. And the investment that we make in our youth, the return, you know, it just...I...I don't think that we can really put a price on it. And I'm sure that it's a fraction of the cost of doing some kind of screening on the 2nd Floor. So, if...if that's something we are considering at all, then I think it would be shameful to not also consider funding this program. So, mahalo, Axel and Member King, for this work. Phenomenal, exceptional job. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, just one last point. You know, during this

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past election...the leadership of the Micronesian churches are not U.S. citizens, but their children and grandchildren are, and they've been working throughout the election to get their young people educated. But it's been slow progress because they need to understand that process so that they can help their kids to understand it. But participating in a youth organization such as what you're doing helps to prompt them to be able to move into the area so that they can...because they're going to be participants, right, they're U.S. citizens, born here, but...but they're...they don't know how to use their voices in the manner that we want them to, and that's why we're here. So, I just wanted to put that in your ear so, you know, during the time when you're between now and the next time we meet, you can think about that. So, thank you, Chair. Thank you, Axel, very much.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, may I --

CHAIR LEE: And to Axel...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- make one more...one more comment on that?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just...I think that's a great idea, Member Kama. And, you know, one of the things that...when we were putting this all together, because it's a first-time thing and...and a lot of folks didn't understand what it was going to end up being. I mean we didn't know until we went through the motions exactly what it was going to be. Although, you know, my vision of what I wanted it to be is coming true. I mean it's really...it's really...this is what I wanted it to be. And so, now that...once we get through the first pilot project, and people see what we're doing with the final, you know, Council...Youth Council meeting, I think we're going to get a lot of participation in the upcoming years. And so, it won't be matter of...you know, we had to...we had to go back out for participation after the first application process. I think we're going to...I'm hoping that we're going to have such an overwhelming interest in...in young people wanting to join the process that there'll have to be some kind of a screening. But, you know, the original intent was to try to get a cohort of 30 or 40, and I think we ended up with 20. Of course, we didn't...we didn't anticipate COVID either when we first started, you know, when I...when I started conceptualizing this. But, you know, certainly now that everybody knows, and most of the Councilmembers are coming back and...and can reach out to the various youth groups that you all know, and encourage folks to...you know, you'll have something...you'll have something to show them too, this is what we're...we're talking about. We...we didn't have anything to show them when we were first, you know, soliciting for participants. So, we couldn't say this is what you're going to be doing in the end. But, you know, I'm...there'll be a video of the...of the final meeting, there'll be, you know, notes, and a write-up, and...and something concrete for the youth to know. And also, the other things we're working on...I think we're working on it this year, but it's probably going to be next year where we can actually give college credits, you know, high school and college credits for this activity. So, those...those...all those things will kind of come together in the package and be...and inspire, hopefully, the next generation of youth to...or the next year of this generation to participate.

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CHAIR LEE: Very good. Yes, Axel?

MR. BEERS: Sorry. I don't...I don't mean to drag it out any longer. But just the words made me think of like a personal story. So, I used to teach middle school, 7th grade and I...and I taught 7th graders, and I was a little bit of an unconventional teacher. I like to teach civic engagement and do project-based learning, which is really kind of what we're kind of doing with this Youth Council...Council project, right, is these students are, you know, assigned a project, a problem, and then they create this...their own product to...to showcase. And that's really what...how...how we do things in real life, and how...what I see you folks doing on the Council, you're constantly working on your different projects and legislation. One of those 7th graders is now a senior, and she's part of this Youth Council, and just to go...to really reiterate that the investment you make, you know, at that young age really starts to pay off. And it's really been a career highlight of mine, honestly, to be able to do this project and see, you know, an awkward goofy 7th grader really come up as a strong-willed senior, and somebody with their own ideas to share. So, again, just thank you so much for your support of the project. I think it will mean a lot going forward.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any final comments or questions? Okay. Defer this one as well.

ITEM 4. 1-MONTH PLANNING CALENDAR

CHAIR LEE: And so, we come to the 1-Month Planning Calendar. Do we have any testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: No new testifiers, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: All right. So, the 1-month calendar, does everybody have it? Everybody have a copy of it? Traci, you want to take this one?

MS. FUJITA: Chair, I think we're still in the process of trying to figure out the Committee...Committee meetings for the week of November 28th. I know a couple of...a couple of Committees have cancelled, but others are trying to still schedule or, you know, hold special meetings. So, I don't think we could finalize this today because it's still kind of in the works.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Any questions, Members? It's...it's just hit or miss sometimes. Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, I know that our attorneys requested you and I--so the Chair and the Vice-Chair--and then the plaintiff's attorneys requested the GREAT Committee Chair. Member Molina. And...so, no one else is going to the trial. And when I polled for the regular meeting, I got bare quorum, so...for BFED. Oh, was Member King requested too?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: (nods head).

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, oh, okay, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I thought we *(audio interference)*.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina?

CHAIR LEE: Member Kama, were you requested to go?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, and I didn't respond because I wasn't sure. I mean --

CHAIR LEE: No, to go to the trial.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- you know, when all the posts came out. So, I wasn't sure because...I mean I would prefer not to, but I don't know. So, I couldn't...it was hard to respond not knowing because nobody told me anything. But certainly, if I don't have to go, I would definitely, you know, attend the BFED meeting.

CHAIR LEE: Then I saw...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: It's hard to say *(audio interference)*.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. I saw Member Sinenci's hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Yeah, we'll likely cancel the APT Committee on Tuesday, November 29th, but we'd also request a meeting on the...December 7th, Chair, so just looking out for that. And then I am scheduled to be on O'ahu on the 30th, so I won't be able to participate in the CARE or the BFED Committees. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, I think that week is clear as mud. I...you know, I had told basically Corp. Counsel that I...you know, because they do want me to testify, but I had told them I couldn't do it on the 30th because I was hoping to have the CARE Committee meeting. But, you know, that doesn't make sense if others are going to be gone. Unfortunately, you know, Member Rawlins-Fernandez and...and Kama are not Voting Members, so, you know, the fact that you're not going that day doesn't help me. So, I have to get a bare quorum. I...I...but because I told them I wasn't available that day, I did...or I hope you got my RSVP, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, that I...I would actually be at your...your BFED meeting. So, I did say I would come. But I just had...because everything was so up in the air, and I just finally just said just tell them I can't come on Wednesday. But if I can't have the CARE Committee meeting, then I'm going to need another date the following week because I have to do the master agenda, and then I have the final item to pass out of Committee. So, I'm kind of up in the air too. And, you know, it's too late at this point to try to take Monday or Tuesday because the posting deadlines have passed, you know, for that week. So, I...I'm just...I don't

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know to what to say other than I'm expecting to be at BFED because I just told them I wasn't available Wednesday.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I am just going to be doing the referral items, so it should...I mean unless we get like a ton of testimony, it should be less than half an hour of a meeting. And so, if...if you wanted to do it...because you just have referral items too, Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, I have referral items, but I also have the item from the...the planting plan that was...it's a very...it's a section of what we talked about at the Council meeting. So, it should be fairly easy to pass that on to the Planning Commission. I'm not anticipating that's going to take a long time, but, you know, probably max an hour and a half, something like that. I just need folks to be there. You know, I just need at least four voting Members to be there, so...and I think Chair Lee said...you're going on the 29th, Chair Lee, so you would be there on the 30th. I think...I think Member Johnson...

CHAIR LEE: I'm being called on the 30th. Well --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: *(audio interference)*

CHAIR LEE: -- I've been told to be available the 30th and the 1st.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So, that's...

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I...I...I was just going to run my meeting off my phone because I just have to do the referral items, so I just need to get that out of the way. So, if you want the rest of my meeting time, I don't know if people can make it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. Well, maybe we...

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's what I was offering.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. Okay. Thanks. We'll see if we...timing-wise we can work it out, yeah. Because I was planning to do it virtually too, so...but anyway, I'll be there for your meeting, whatever time it is.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: You know, you may want to take the Vice-Chair up on her offer. Because I was told, I hope it's true, that the trial won't go on beyond 1:30.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So, we should be able to maybe start at...if you're starting at 1:30, then we should be able to start at 2:30 maybe, that same day? Okay. So, I'll try to plan on that. If someone from OCS is listening, we can...if we can post for a 2:30

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meeting on the 30th. And then if you're still...if...whoever can call in from O'ahu.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, you can start the meeting at 9:00. You can start at the meeting at 9:00 and recess until 1:00, 2:30, or whatever. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That might be better. And then if you folks are available, then we could...we could go ahead and have it, and then if we don't have a quorum, we'll...we'll...we'll recess until 2:30. All right. Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you, Vice-Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. I saw some other hands up in the air.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin is here, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member...let the record show that Member Paltin is here. In your office or workspace?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Lonoikamakahiki. Broadcasting live and direct from the Lāhainā District Office. I have with me Angela Lucero and Christian Balagso.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Thank you for joining us. We're kind of at the tail end of the agenda. Trying to figure out, you know, which meetings will have quorum and which won't because of our requirement to be on O'ahu next week.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, they said I got to go Thursday. So, that's *(audio interference)*.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Wow, they told me Wednesday or Thursday, and they won't give me a definitive answer, so...so, I have reservations for Wednesday, and I...just in case, but I had reservations for Tuesday first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, me too. I told them my kids have swimming on Wednesday, so if we can work around that.

CHAIR LEE: Apparently, they don't really care. We have very important work to complete, and yet here we are, you know, just standing by.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I...I did discuss with Member Sugimura, so I think we got that...that issue that I was going to agendize straightened out, and she's going to take...take it from there. So, I'm...I'm okay with cancelling my meeting because...because she's going to apply the kuleana for me.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Good. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So, it looks like we...we'll probably have quorum for Wednesday morning if you're going to be here, Member Paltin, and Member Johnson should be here, and hopefully we'll get Member Sugimura.

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CHAIR LEE: But not me. Not me. Probably not me.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Possibly you. Possibly you.

CHAIR LEE: Possibly, yeah...possibly.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But I...okay, I was told...I just wanted to confirm a couple things. One, that...that Member Molina is going to do...do the three minutes, this...that week? Because I was originally supposed to do it, and now I see it on the calendar for Molina. And I had asked to have someone...trade with someone else because I was gone, you know, and I didn't have time to prepare. And then the other thing is, I was told that IT is not meeting next week on the 28th, and that AH would be taking that timeslot. So, I just wanted to...yes, Member Johnson? So, I...I think that's what is happening. So, I...so, when you're...the items that you're going to take up, Member Sugimura, for Member Paltin, is that the following week, or is that the week after that?

CHAIR LEE: Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, since Member Paltin brought up the calendar for my particular item, it's going to be sent to the new year, and we'll just take it up then.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So, you're...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: One. And then...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, we're still on...we're still...you're still off for the 28th and that's going to be AH?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So...yeah. So, I was told that we were only going to have our meetings for time-sensitive things, and I had sent a text to the Chair just so she knew that I had made a commitment with HECO months ago, like I think October, about having this meeting on the 28th. But at...at posting day deadline, they...they basically said they'll just do that in the new term. So, if I would have known that we could just do anything, then I could have posted something else, but not necessarily, you know, time sensitive. But nonetheless, my meeting got cancelled on the 28th. And...and I yet have not heard when I have to be in...in court, and, of course, all of you know it's going to be online by Zoom or...or BlueJeans, whatever it's going to be because I can't go to court. But I'm still waiting for a date, I haven't heard what that would be. So, I told my Staff to...you know, basically, if anybody asks for...for me to attend their meeting, you know, any of your Committee meetings to say yes, and then we'll adjust it once we hear more from the court, which will take precedence. So, kind of where we're at. And Miki is watching communication from Corp. Counsel just to see if...I don't even have a time yet to do...to meet with Corp. Counsel just to go over what the witness, you know, session or witness information is. But I'm...I'm waiting...I'm waiting for everything, I'm still on hold.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Welcome to the club.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, we're all on hold. And anybody else? Okay. And I'm sorry that we're all...you know, you're going through all of this. But unfortunately, you know, we're subject to the call of the court, and so, we just have to adjust accordingly. Any other comments?

MS. FUJITA: Chair? This is...this is Traci.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Traci?

MS. FUJITA: Can I just go over, make sure I got my notes correct. So, for November 28th on Monday, IT is cancelled. Is HCP still happening at 1:30?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, yes.

MS. FUJITA: Okay. And then on...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: We polled them, yeah.

MS. FUJITA: Okay. And then on Tuesday November 29th, GREAT and APT are cancelled; is that right? Does it sound right? Okay. And then for November...

CHAIR LEE: Excuse me. Excuse me. Did somebody answer? I was informed yesterday, but things change hour to hour.

MS. FUJITA: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: I was informed that Molina was going to testify on Tuesday. So, I assume he can't do his meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, that's what I heard too. Moana said that the other side lawyer is calling him on Tuesday.

CHAIR LEE: Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, he can't. And the court is only until 1:30, but if, you know, somebody's on the airplane or something.

CHAIR LEE: I know, but he can't do his...his 9:00 meeting. So, yes, I'm pretty sure that's cancelled.

MS. FUJITA: Okay. And then for November 30th, CARE is still happening at 9:00 with a possible recess to 2:30, and BFED is still happening at 1:30 for referral items. December 1st PSLU is cancelled; is that right?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

MS. FUJITA: And AH...AH is still occurring at 1:30?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

MS. FUJITA: Is that right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No. Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Yes? Yes...yes, Gabe?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. For the record, Traci, we're...remember, IT got cancelled, so I...I'm going to go on that slot on Monday.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So...yeah.

MS. FUJITA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: AH would be on Monday.

MS. FUJITA: So, AH at 9:00 a.m.?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.

MS. FUJITA: And then --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And...

MS. FUJITA: -- so there's no...no meeting at 1:30 on December 1st.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's correct.

CHAIR LEE: Or 9:00 a.m. as well, right?

MS. FUJITA: Right. Oh, yeah. The whole day.

CHAIR LEE: It's open. The whole day is open.

MS. FUJITA: Whole day's open. And there's a possibly APT meeting on December 7th.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MS. FUJITA: No.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Correct.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, yeah, yeah. Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Because...because the one on the 29th was cancelled...postponed?

MS. FUJITA: Right. Am I missing anything so far? I know...I know this is kind of fluid, but as of right now, I just --

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

MS. FUJITA: -- want to make sure my notes are right. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Traci. What is this again, Member King, about the three minutes? Was it supposed to be your turn?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It was, but I had asked...before I left for my big trip, I had asked if they could switch it with somebody else. And now I see that Member Molina is on there for three minutes. So, I'm assuming that they switched...that I'll be doing the last one; is that correct?

CHAIR LEE: I don't know. Traci, can you answer that question?

MS. FUJITA: I don't. Sorry, I don't have that list with me.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Because it's on...I'm looking at the one...one-month agenda, and it says internal deadline for Councilmembers three minutes, and it says Councilmember Molina.

CHAIR LEE: Traci, can you check on that and get back to Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, get --

MS. FUJITA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- if you can get it back to me right away because I was assume...I hadn't heard, so I was assuming I was still doing it. I know my Staff started working on the three minutes. But if it's switched, that's okay, I just need to know.

MS. FUJITA: Okay. We'll get back to you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So, it looks like...so, Monday there's AH and then HCP, is that what's happening, Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Yes. Yeah.

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CHAIR LEE: Monday the 28th you're talking about, right?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: The Monday, Wednesday, and then Tuesday/Thursday are both free days.

CHAIR LEE: No, not free days. Monday has AH and HCP, and then Tuesday --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, Tuesday...

CHAIR LEE: -- is open...is open.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR LEE: Wednesday is your Committee and BFED, and then Thursday is open.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. Okay. So, that's what I was...

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Tuesday...Tuesday and Thursday are both open.

CHAIR LEE: Right. Okay. And then the Council meeting, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez has the opening remarks. Okay. We're all set for at least one week anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Sort of.

CHAIR LEE: Sort of, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: *(Audio interference)* to hear back from them, the courts.

ITEM 5. HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (HSAC)/NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo)/WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION (WIR) MATTERS

CHAIR LEE: All right. Do we have any testifiers, Traci?

MS. FUJITA: No new testifiers.

CHAIR LEE: We have just one last item, and that is the Hawai'i...HSAC, Hawai'i State Association of Counties and WIR. So, you have anything to report, Member King or Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, we had an HSAC meeting yesterday, and basically, I just was in the beginning of the meeting for the reports and approval of...or just discussion of the legislative package, which it looks like we're moving forward with. But Member Paltin came on for the discussion of...and I don't think you voted, but for the discussion

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of officer. So, I'll let her...that was kind of the big issue, so, I'll let her report on that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, at one point it looked like I had the votes to be President, but they said that if somebody else new comes in, they wanted to stick that person with Treasurer if it wasn't me that's...that's sat as an alternate all this time. And then Bernard Carvalho came on, he's going to be succeeding Mason, and he made a play for President. My suggestion was that whichever...that, you know, we've been Treasurer for like ten years, Secretary once, and Vice-President once, I think. My suggestion was that whichever County is hosting the HSAC should be the Vice-President that year, and then get on a schedule...because the HSAC Conference hosting is kind of a...a toll on the HSAC member. And the Vice-President position is the least work because, you know, the Secretary you got to do the minutes, the Treasurer you got to do the QuickBooks and the contracts, and the President...since we came on with Nahe, Mason said the reason why it's working so well is they meet weekly to, you know, set the agenda and...and figure out which direction they're going. And so, Bernard...Heather Kimball, who's going to be continuing on for Hawai'i County, concurred that hosting HSAC and being President is a heavy lift. Bernard seemed to think he could be President and host HSAC, so, that's kind of the split. I was saying that, you know, if Maui County has to be Treasurer again, then we need to amend the bylaws into a fair format where, you know, it gets on to a rotation because we don't want to be the Treasurer in perpetuity. So, that's kind of where we left it. If Bernard wants to be President and host the HSAC, I think we're...at the very least, we'll have to develop a policy of who...how the rotation goes in relationship to who hosts the HSAC Conference. The deal is it's those four County representatives who vote, and so everything has to kind of be unanimous, and that's...that's what difficult about. And what I know so far is I think it's Bernard is going to be their HSAC rep with either Felicia or Billy DeCosta as the alternate. Heather will be the HSAC rep for Hawai'i County with Jenn Kagiwada as the alternate. And I believe Tommy Waters will be for O'ahu, which with...I think they're getting a couple new members on Hawai'i County...or City and County of Honolulu, so they weren't sure who the alternate was going to be yet. And basically, nobody wants to be the Treasurer. Tommy Waters, I think he's been the Treasurer, and that's the summary of the situation from my understanding.

CHAIR LEE: Member King, then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you for that, Member Paltin. And you're right, it does have to be unanimous decision, so you could hold out until they come to the right decision. I don't think it's fair. I think it's actually been 11 years that we were Treasurer because I was told before I was Treasurer of HSAC that we had had a 10-year stint of being Treasurer. And...and then I think I came on as Secretary, and then Treasurer. But, you know, thank you to our OCS team because they did a phenomenal job back then, before we had an executive director, of supporting my positions in those. And the fact that nobody wants to be Treasurer should be an indication of why Maui should not be Treasurer next time. Regardless of who is our HSAC representative, we should not acquiesce to taking that on. You know, we've been recently Treasurer, then Secretary,

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then Vice-President in...in just the three years that I've been on HSAC. And so, the only thing left for Maui is to take the President position. So...so, you know, I just think that you should make a...you should make that statement, and it is a really good point that whoever is hosting the...the conference should be...should be the Vice-Chair. And I think one of the things that happened...because when we hosted the conference in 2019, you know, basically we did it all on our own. It was just myself working with the OCS team and, you know, the Councilmembers who participated, but...but this time, they reached out, and all of the other islands pitched in. You know, you saw a lot of OCS members from Maui at the conference running around doing things. That didn't happen when we hosted it, we didn't have all that kind of help. And so now, they think it's a real easy thing to do because sure, if everybody pitches in, you don't have that much to do. But the planning of it is...is an enormous task, and we did it all in six months because nothing had happened previous to January. And, you know, they were...they were planning it for basically two years because it kept getting put off. They made other plans, and then they kept getting put off because of COVID. So, they...I think they think it's a lot easier than it actually is. And, you know, maybe it'll be easier going forward if everybody pitches in like they did, but that's not how it used to be. It used to be just the island that was hosting it were...were the ones who worked on it. And so, I think that's where that idea is coming from that oh, I could still be President and host the conference.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, just to clarify, Hawai'i County, who hosted the last conference, did not say it's easy. They were on the idea that the conference hoster [sic] should be Vice-President. They...even with all that help and all that time, they backed up that proposal. It was Bernard Carvalho solely, who I asked directly, you don't think that that's too much to be the President and the conference hoster [sic]? And he said if you're asking me, no, I don't think it's that much. So, it's Kaua'i County, Bernard Carvalho.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So...well, that's good because yeah, it is a lot of work to host that conference. But, you know, I think you should...just my opinion is that I think you should hold firm that Maui County should be the President of HSAC next year, and it shouldn't have to do with just whoever is in that position...because it used to be an automatic rotation. And then --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- that got taken...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I have...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I actually made a proposal to put it back to the rotation, and the person who blocked it was Ashley Kierkiewicz who's not...you know, not going to be on the HSAC this year. She was...she was slated to, but then she decided she didn't want to. But I think that it does need to go back to that rotation because it shouldn't...it shouldn't be this judgment call every year of who they think is going to be the best President. Because, you know, frankly, I think with where we're at with the rotations, it just wouldn't be fair for Maui to take any position except the President position. And

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if you can tell them that you...that's that how the Council feels, then, you know, you have...that's your vote.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I...I do have Heather Kimball's support. Her caveat was she didn't want a new person on the HSAC to be the President...that if it's a new person, they should be the Treasurer. But I mean a Treasurer is also a heavy role as well, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I'm...I'm not sure how...how it will play out. The next meeting is...is schedule during my last PSLU meeting, it's for December 15th at 10:00. So, I'm not sure if...if you can make that meeting, Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I can make...I can make the meeting, and, you know, maybe...maybe it would be better coming from me as someone who's not going to be there next year that the Council will not accept any position except for the President position. I don't know, you know, I'll kind of...I'll kind of leave that up to your judgment call. But I can make it on the 15th. But then I won't be at your meeting. So, you'll have to have quorum without me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: We have another hand up. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. So, you know, my sense is that the conversation makes sense in terms of workload, in terms of what people are really going to be passionate about, and the issue that nobody wants to be Treasurer. Sometimes nobody wants to be Secretary either, but if there is a real hesitation of taking Treasurer, is it possible to just contract somebody to do that job? Because I know sometimes they contract secretaries just to do the minutes at that meeting. Is it possible --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We have.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- to do that?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, we have.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Because if you are forced...let's say, if you are a new person onto HSAC, and you are forced to do it, you might not even want to do it, but you're being forced to do it; therefore, you will not do a good job of taking...taking care of that paperwork. That's important. You know, you have money stuff, you got to have somebody there who knows what they're doing, and who can do it without hesitation.

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So, that's just my comment about that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Member King, then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Just to respond to that. We have that, Member Kama, we've had that for the past year or so because that's what the executive director did...does now, she does the minutes. So, you know, when I was Secretary, I always brought Shelly Espeleta with me to the meetings, and then she helped with creating those minutes. She did an excellent job. So...but none of the other...I don't think any of the other...I'm not sure if the other councils did that. Because when Heather became Secretary, we had an executive director. So, the Secretary job is not that difficult, you just have to, you know, review the minutes and then, you know, make the vote. The...the...she also has QuickBooks set up in a better system for the Treasurer. So, you know, on the one hand I heard from some of the members, oh, the Treasurer job is not that hard because now we have this QuickBooks system, and I asked well, then why do you none of you want it if it's not that hard? So, they were having...they were just like...you know, they were having this kind of --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- like via thought like, you know, nobody wants it but it's not that hard, so you should take it kind of a thing. So, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Well...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- I'm...I'm happy to go to the next HSAC meeting and just, you know, make that statement that Maui...Maui needs to be President next. We've been in all the other positions in the last four years, and then we had the ten-year stint as Treasurer.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was basically going to say things that Member King had said. Nahe wanted to try and ease the body's worries about Treasurer, although Tommy Waters, who had just been Treasurer, said he sure didn't want to be Treasurer again. But Nahe does the QuickBooks, and she said she'll do the inputting and things like that, that the main responsibility would...of the Treasurer would be to deal with the contracts, I guess, which I'm not sure what she meant by that. I know we contract that lobbyist, Jon Okudara, and maybe selecting whatever contracts we need to do. She also had brought up about, you know, all the people that want to get access to HSAC that offer these different services through NACo and things like that. So, they're vetted through NACo, but she's been kind of the gatekeeper of getting them access to us. And she wanted some direction on how much access. And Heather Kimball said one of the main important things is that these people that are offering these services to the HSAC board be familiar with Hawai'i procurement law because we don't want to waste time talking to people if they're not familiar with the local procurement process. So, I mean --

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, is it...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I don't know if that's the type of contracts that we'll be dealing with or what...in terms of the conference and then there's the golf tournament and all of those things.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right. But is it possible for HSAC to contract a body to do just the work of the Treasurer?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Actually, Nahe does a lot of that now, and then she set up the systems that make it a lot easier than when we had it. Because we had to...we had to monitor those systems. And then the people who had it before us, there were a couple of years in between the ten years that we had it where O'ahu had it, and it got all screwed up because they didn't...they didn't do the books the right...the same way as the year before, and they lost some of the contracts. And so, when we went to do audits, the auditors said we...we can't finish your audit without this information. So, you know, after all that heartache, and the...and being told that we had to do these audits, and not having the information to do the audits, then we went...then somebody reinterpreted the bylaws and said oh, we don't have to do an audit every year, that's not a requirement in the bylaws. And so, we just decided to close the books on those years. But that...there was...there was a lot of stuff that was kind of messed up from when --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- O'ahu (*audio interference*). And then the people...the person who was the support person in O'ahu had it left the State, so we couldn't even find that person to find out where the records were. You know, he was...he was support for whoever was...for Joey Manahan who was, you know, the chair at the time from O'ahu. So, I...I think it...I think things are fairly well straightened out. And, you know, the fact that they keep saying it's not that difficult should mean that they shouldn't have a hard time then with taking it on. But if Tommy Waters doesn't want it again, then he should understand why we don't want it again after doing it for ten years.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And (*audio interference*).

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: If it was easy, people would jump at.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I believe...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: What's easy to you, not easy to me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's in the...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, I think we have...we have to...we have to go along with not easy, and we don't want it. But the idea is if your executive director has set up your QuickBooks system, wouldn't it possible for her to be the...the finance director or whatever, and pay her a little bit more salary to do that work for you folks?

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, she kind of is doing that, you know, because she is the one that set up the QuickBooks system, and she's...you know, she actually helps write the Treasurer's report. So, she already is doing a lot of that work. So, it's really not...you know, it's not something that we have to hire a separate person for, it's just that they don't --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- want to...they just don't want to do it again.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And then it falls on your ED to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It says in the...

CHAIR LEE: Okay. We're going to have...we're going to have to move on. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Sorry, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Because we're not *(audio interference)*.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to add that I think it's in the bylaws that each member take a leadership role, so somebody has to be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. It's not...I mean unless we change the bylaws to say some outside person can be Treasurer, but that's how the bylaws are, is that each member take one of those leadership roles.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just an update on the Western Interstate Regional...WIR conference.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Final comment *(audio interference)* move on to that.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Sorry...sorry, Shane, I just wanted to make a final comment that I'm going to attend the next HSAC meeting, and I know we can't vote, but I'm *(audio interference)* just want to make sure there's no pushback if I stand fast on...on Maui being President of HSAC next year. So, you know, just a straw poll that that's how our Council feels.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, I thought that's what we...

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, well, we can't vote here, so, you know, if...if there are no objections, you

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can deduce that do you have support.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great. Will do.

CHAIR LEE: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Real quick. Under the WIR government affairs, the bipartisan infrastructure bill opened for funding notices for county governments, including under the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Infrastructure Safety Grants, as well as Federal Aviation Administration Contract Tower Competitive Grants, as well as the Federal Transit Administration Complete Grants for Rail Vehicle Replacement. Also, the Federal Highway Administration National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Grant Program. Under the DOC, Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program. Under DHS, FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, the BRIC program, and FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. So, those all went out for open funding. And the next WIR conference is going to be on May 17th to 19th of next year at the Washington...Washington County, Southern Utah, and you can look for registration and housing reservations in January of next year. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions, Members? All right. That takes care of HSAC and WIR.

ITEM 6. COVID-19 MANDATES AND PROTOCOLS

CHAIR LEE: Anybody have any questions on COVID mandates or do we have any testimony? Any...anybody waiting to testify?

MS. FUJITA: No new...no new testifiers, but we can do a last call, and then --

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

MS. FUJITA: -- you can formally close testimony even though there's no action being taken. But last call, if there's anyone that wants to testify, please turn on your video and mic, and let us know. Okay. So, no one's responded. So, Chair, you can close testimony for today.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay. I...I did see a hand, did somebody have a question on COVID?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I...I --

CHAIR LEE: Member King?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- raised my hand, but it was for the...for the infrastructure, the IJJA. Is it...can we...can we --

CHAIR LEE: WIR?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- go back? Yeah. Well, not WIR, but the infrastructure bill. What I wanted to ask --

CHAIR LEE: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- Member Sinenci a question on.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. That's really not on the agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. I'll talk to him on the side. Okay.

CHAIR LEE: You want to give him a call?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Yeah, I am.

CHAIR LEE: Give him a call.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I will, I will. I'll call him.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thanks. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Just a quick note on COVID in case anybody's interested, that there were no protocols at COP27, so, several people came back with COVID. I did test negative, so I don't have it. And if you go to Japan, everybody's still wearing masks everywhere. Just an FYI.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Good for them.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So, just checking, but you took your second or third booster shot, right?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I took my third booster shot before I went to COP27, so I've had five shots. I had the first two vaccinations, and then I've had three booster shots. And the...and the third one is for the new variant that's come out.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, I encourage anybody who...if you're going to abroad, get that...get that third booster shot if you've had the first two. Because mostly...most

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places around the world are not masking up. I think Japan...

CHAIR LEE: *(Audio interference)* at COP27, did you mask up in...when you had meetings in --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No.

CHAIR LEE: -- close contact with other people?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No. And...and out of...I don't know how many thousands of people were there, I would say less than 1 percent were masking up. So, one of my colleagues, you know her, Member Kama, because she was in your resolution, Bridget Shay *(phonetic)*, her husband came back with COVID, and tested positive when they got back to Texas. But nobody was masking up that I was around. You know, maybe or two I saw in the distance. So, that's why I tested when I got home.

CHAIR LEE: Well, I'm glad you came home safe and sound.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Members, any other questions on COVID? Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, Chair, you know, we talk about COVID-19, but the new variant that came out was the RSV, right, that's starting to impact children and stuff. So, would this topic stay the same, or would it be...would it be...

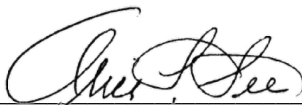
CHAIR LEE: Well...well, we can...we can make that adjustment in the title, but it's all related.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay, yeah. Okay. Just wanted to make sure we're going to talk about it later. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. All right. Members, any further comments or questions? If not, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 11:25 a.m.

APPROVED:



ALICE L. LEE
Council Chair

chr:min:221123/ml:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 36 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 23rd day of December 2022, in Kula, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck