

WATER AUTHORITY, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

March 20, 2023

**Online via BlueJeans
Council Chamber, 8th Floor**

CONVENE: 9:02 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member (In 9:33 a.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (In 9:42 a.m.)
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

STAFF:

James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Richelle Kawasaki, Legislative Attorney
David Raatz, Deputy Director of Council Services
Jocelyn Moniz, Committee Secretary
Stacey Vinoray, Committee Secretary
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Stacy N. Takahashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tom Cook
Jared Agtunong, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tom Cook
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Davideane Kama-Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Tasha Kama
Angela R. Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tamara Paltin
Christi Keliikoa, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tamara Paltin
Krystal Cabilies, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tamara Paltin
Braedon I. Wilkerson, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani
Rawlins-Fernandez

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Noelani Ahia, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Vanessa Valencia, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Arthur A. Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura
Jordan T. Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura
Jennifer F. Matsumoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura
Laura L. McDowell, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins
Susan M. Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka'i District Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna'i District Office
Mavis Oliveira, Council Aide, East Maui District Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui District Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui District Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia District Office

ADMIN.: Mimi Desjardins, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Cynthia Lallo, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor
Koa Hewahewa, Deputy Director of Agriculture
Lori Tshako, Director of Housing and Human Concerns
Saumalu Mataafa, Deputy Director of Housing and Human Concerns

OTHERS: Keisa Liu
Penelope McKenzie
Carol Lee Kamekona
Summer Star
Tiffany Solinap
Leslee Matthews
Adesina Ogunelese
Rainey Dock Matthews
Jeremy Jarvis
Thomas Duran
Rethabile Molapo
Grace Shigetani-Fraley-Reese
Hop Hopkins
Adalila Garcia
Faith Chase
JC Law
Additional attendees (3)

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Resources:

Amy Morris, Ph.D., Land and Water Connections Consulting
(WASSP-3)
Emily Fielding, Director, The Nature Conservancy (WASSP-3)
Darrah Kauhane-Floerke, Executive Director, Project Vision
Hawai'i (WASSP-1(2))
Bob Wardlaw, Director of Social Services (WASSP-1(2))
Maya Marquez, Community Health Worker, Project Vision Hawai'i
(WASSP-1(2))
Jason Medina, Water Driver, Project Vision Hawai'i (WASSP-1(2))

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

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . *(Audio interference)* Sinenci, your Chair. Will the Monday, March 20th meeting please come order. Welcome, everybody. And may I please ask that you silence all cell phones and technical devices. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you are not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Also, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Joining us today we have Committee Members...Vice-Chair Gabe Johnson. Aloha kakahiaka.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, Committee Members. Hujambo to all of you. I am alone in the Lāna'i District Office space, and I'm here and ready to work. Pardon...pardon the echo, it's a little echoey in here. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Hujambo to you as well. Next we have Councilmember Tom Cook. Aloha. Hujambo.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair. Aloha and good morning of the day.

CHAIR SINENCI: Hujambo. Hujambo. Yeah. Okay. Mahalo for being here. Next we have Pro Tem Kama. Aloha and hujambo.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and hujambo to you and to all of our colleagues. Chair, this morning the Finance Pensions, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee Affairs [*sic*] of the National Association of Counties will be meeting at 10:00, so I'm going to break away here with your permission at 9:50 to attend, and I'll be back after an hour.

CHAIR SINENCI: Sure thing.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: That is important. Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you for reminding us. Next we have Chair Alice Lee. Aloha and hujambo.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha, Chair. And all the way from Kenya, hujambo to everyone in the Chambers and...and watching our meeting today. I'm here alone in my workspace for the first half of the day, and no one else is here. Looking forward to your meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for being here, Chair Lee. Member Paltin is excused at the moment, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez is en route. So, next we have Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. Aloha and hujambo.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning. Hujambo from Kenya, is that what I'm reading? And good morning, everybody. Today is my husband's birthday, so I just want to say happy birthday to Tak. I made for him breakfast before I came to the office, and I hope he has a pleasant day with his children. So, thanks.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. Happy birthday, Tak. And then finally we have Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins. Aloha and hujambo.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Hujambo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for being here. Also from the Administration, while we don't have Director Molina today, he's...okay. But we do have Ms. Cynthia Lallo of the Mayor's Office. Aloha and hujambo.

MS. LALLO: Good morning. Thank you. Good morning. And thank you for allowing me to be here.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Yeah, thank you for joining us. And we're hoping to have Director Tshako later on in the evening. And from Corporation Counsel we have Ms. DesJardins. Aloha.

MS. DESJARDINS: Aloha. Good --

CHAIR SINENCI: Committee...

MS. DESJARDINS: -- morning, everyone.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good morning. *(Audio interference)* for being here. Our Committee Staff, we have Ms. Jocelyn Moniz, Mr. James Krueger, Ms. Kasie Apo Takayama, Mr. Jarret Pascual, Ms. Richelle Kawasaki, Ms. Lei Dinneen, and Ms. Jean Pokipala. Aloha and welcome. Okay. Members, we have two items on the agenda today. We have WASSP-3, Bill 197 (2022), a Bill for an Ordinance Amending Section 2.82.050 of the Maui County Code, Relating to the GreenPrint. And WASSP-1(2), a Rule 7(B) item relating to Matters

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Within the Committee's Subject-Matter Jurisdiction on Water Distribution for the Homeless. Let's begin with public testimony. We have testifiers? Do we? Okay.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first...

CHAIR SINENCI: Wait, let me...let me go ahead and...let's begin with public testimony. The members of the public may want to wait until the presentation for each item is given; however, you need...if you need to testify now at the beginning of the meeting, that you have that option. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you're signed in, you're on the list to testify even if...even if you did not request to testify. Please let Staff know in the chat if you are signed on and do not intend to testify. Okay. In accordance with the Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting, but cannot be limited to the start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called up on the agenda. When testifiers sign up to testify, they must let Staff know whether they wish to testify. Okay. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans link or phone number noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via...via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item and will be accepted at the beginning of the meeting and prior to the Committee's deliberation on each of the agenda items. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I kindly ask you to complete your testimony. We ask that you state your full name and organization, but if you prefer to testify anonymously, Staff will identify and refer to you as "Testifier" and assign you a number. Please also indicate the agenda item or items you are testifying on. You may indicate in the chat if you do not wish to testify; however, chat should not be used for discussion or comments. And as always, please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you're done testifying and if you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. Again, thank you for all your cooperation. As a reminder, the chat should be used only to sign up for testimony. Committee Members, I will proceed with oral testimony for those who wish to give their testimony now. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier on the list is Keisa Liu, followed by testifier whose last four digits is 9226.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Liu.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. LIU: Aloha. Before I begin my testimony, I just need to check that you guys can see and hear me. I am not in the country, so it's good? Okay. Great.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can see and hear you clearly.

MS. LIU: Okay. Now I will start my testimony. Aloha. My name is Keisa Liu, and I'm here to

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testify on agenda item WASSP-1(2). There are two things I would like to bring up that relates to this project, one that is personal and one that is social. First, the equipment is stored at my house on my property, that includes the water truck and the water bottles. I am happy to support this project as the site at no cost. It makes it easier for Maya and Jason, and saves on costs for the organization. However, I do wish to take you...I do wish you take into consideration that it is at my residence, and ask that we find a better solution on how the water is prepared for distribution. When the project started, Maya had a hose system that she used to fill the water tank, then they switched to using a company to bring five-gallon jugs of water, I'm guessing to make sure that the water was potable. However we are now storing dozens of plastic bottles at my house. And also, I now have a water truck that is backing in and out of my driveway. Now, some of you are aware of my neurodivergence or learning disabilities or eccentricities that make something like this extremely anxiety provoking for me. This current method also has a larger environmental footprint, and the previous method is considerably more unnecessary work for Maya and Jason, and is an increased liability for the County and Project Vision because of more potential risk for injury. I am asking that the Committee and Project Vision consider alternative methods for potable drinking water. For instance, I would be happy to research filters for hoses. It would be more cost effective than the current method, and would allow for a realistic expansion of the project. Now second, I need us to all see the bigger picture. In order to effect change at a macro level, it will require many microlevel behavior changes in order for us to stop perpetuating generational houselessness fueled by hyper individualistic mentality that has been drilled into us for centuries through colonization, religion, social norms, et cetera. We need to change our understanding of what it is like to be a human today. That includes understanding how the human body works and what basic needs have to be met in order for cognition and decision making. Water and sleep have a huge impact on our ability to think and make decisions. In order to understand the basics of our complex social service systems, we need enough water and enough sleep. Everyone needs that for basic human functioning. If you are a human, you need water and sleep. Water projects like these help meet basic needs for any human to function in a society. As leadership, we have to be more open to truly listening and accepting a reality that may not be our own, but is clearly someone else's, without judgment, with curiosity. Once you start doing that, you can really see the complexity of the situations we are in. Now, if you want to start being curious, I am happy to have those conversations with you. You know how to find me. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Liu, for your testimony. We have a question for you from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Keisa and always your interest in our community even if you sound like you're not on Maui, but thank you very much. I just...are you saying that we're storing materials at your house, the County of Maui is storing a water truck and water...water apparatus of some sort? Or what is happening?

MS. LIU: The County is not storing it, it's...I believe it's Project Vision, and it is being stored on my property. Maya lives on my property.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh. So, your tenant.

MS. LIU: And so...she's my tenant. Yeah. So, it's stored on our property, and to...it's like an ohana with the house, yeah. So, my house and then the ohana. So, yeah, it's...it goes up and down my driveway. And I'm...I'm happy that she's there, I'm happy to support the project in that way. I am happy that it's easier for her to get in and out. She knows how to drive that truck in and out of my driveway. I don't have a problem with her being there at all and using that space that way. My concern is really with the water bottles and the water company that's coming in and out. There's just an easier way, a simpler way to do it, and I think that we're going to end up eating more costs than we need to the way that we're doing it now.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: One last question. Good. So, Project Vision is a nonprofit then, it is a program that is funded by the County?

MS. LIU: That's actually...I...I honestly think that Councilmember Sinenci might be able to...to answer that better than I can.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll...we'll wait then.

MS. LIU: Because I'm...I'm...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Keisa.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes. Just to clarify, Member Sugimura. This was part of our budget, to do the water truck in the last budget. Yeah. And we'll have a...we'll be receiving a presentation from Maya then. Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Liu. Staff, will you call the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is a testifier connected by phone number, last four digits being 9226, followed by Mariana Lowekersmar (*phonetic*).

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha.

MS. MCKENZIE: Greetings. Can you hear...can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. MCKENZIE: Okay. My name is Penelope McKenzie. Thank you, Councilmembers, for having this very important meeting today. As we all know, the effects of water affect all of our lives from large to small, and I really want to say I'm in full support of this 1.2 [*sic*] rule regarding the water distribution to the houseless. I will say, you know, I've been...I was living out of my truck for the last year, and I really got to see the effects of what it's like to not have access to water. Water is very heavy to carry, water is massive to store, and the basic fundamental needs...like when you don't have water and you have to go get it, if you don't have a vehicle, the basic needs of washing your feet, we've seen over

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time that the greatest effects of healthcare is been with access to clean water. It's not the medical industrial complex, it's not all these fancy things, it's access to clean water. And so, people that are houseless, all people, but specifically they need this system that has been provided, it's brilliant. It's super important, and it should be expanded. I will say I did also see the setup and the way that they had originally done it with the...the amazing filtration on the hose, and then somehow it got shifted to these five-gallon bottles of water that they have to climb on the truck. It creates a real...it created a higher cost for the project, and it also created a real...like the ableism of it. Like you have to be strong to be able to climb up there. So, like making it easier for them to be able to do this essential service I think is really important to look at, and Maya and Jason are experts in this, and they should be consulted on the needs...the needs that they have. So, I would just really say like not having a land base and not having access to water, that simple task, washing your feet, your body parts, a dish, having a drink, and those basics...and the Project Vision's water distribution is essential, and it should be expanded. Project Vision is an amazing resource in our community, from helping people get food stamps to eye care to healthcare, so Project Vision is an incredible program, and this is first line healthcare, water. This is the first. And so, we see the historical evidence of the lack of water or clean water as I had said. And so Maya and Jason really have a view of seeing what is happening. The social determinants that are created by corruption and the domination of the resources in Maui, and these people, and many people are affected directly by access to water from hihiwai to people, the awai (*phonetic*), to the houseless folks. So, I just really want to say I really support this project. I look forward to the continuation of it and the expansion of it as seen fit by the people that are working on the ground and providing this important care. Maya is a really brilliant community . . .(*timer sounds*). . . member, and should be amplified in her needs and requests and her understanding of this water distribution program. And so, yeah, I just appreciate the efforts that you guys make, and for more mutual aid such as this water distribution project to be amplified and encouraged in Maui County. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for your testimony. Could you please state your name again for the record?

MS. MCKENZIE: Penelope McKenzie.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you very much. Staff, the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, Mariana is not testifying, so the next testifier on the list is Rainey Matthews, followed by Carol Lee Kamekona.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Matthews.

MS. R. MATTHEWS: Aloha. I wanted to testify at the time of the...this is Rainey Dock Matthews. I wanted to testify at the time of the second agenda item.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. We'll notify you when we get to the item.

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MS. R. MATTHEWS: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Kamekona? Okay. We'll come back to Ms. Kamekona.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Summer Star, followed by Tammy
(*phonetic*).

MS. STAR: Aloha mai kākou...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (*Audio interference*).

MS. STAR: Aloha. You guys can hear me okay?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. STAR: Maikai. Mahalo for hearing our testimonies today. I wanted to testify on this item, which I'm forgetting the number of right now, e kala mai, 1(2), in support. As someone myself, I work in mutual aid, I work with our unsheltered population. Sorry for having my video off, I'm in bad reception, I no like cut out. So, I work with our unsheltered population. I'm like...my body is shaking, e kala mai, because the work that Maya and Jason have done, I show up to groups of individuals that I work with, these communities working...living unsheltered. And I've been there at times when...when they pull up with the water truck, and the joy in these people's faces. I'll speak to those folks that are unsheltered, much like Ms. McKenzie was saying, is that this...the consistent support, knowing that there's some sort of consistent support, particularly as it pertains to something as basic and necessary as water, is...it's more than the water. It gives these folks not only a connection to people in the outside world who are showing them compassion and care and working through mutual aid to get them the resources that they need that they're not getting from governmental services, and it just...it...

CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead, Ms. Star. Did we lose you?

MS. STAR: Communities. Oh, sorry if I'm cutting out.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, we...we lost maybe the last three sentences.

MS. STAR: E kala mai. I'm...I'm deep Ha'ikū, guys, right now. Anyway, I just wanted to say from...from a perspective of somebody working frontlines with the communities that...that this project is serving, fantastic, and it provides them a sort of thread to hope and...and...and a positive future that I have not seen other services do in the same way. So, I hope we can support them and all the needs moving forward. I want to thank everybody who's been supportive because I can see in people's faces and in their bodies how much safety and comfort and hope this project brings. So, thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Star, for your testimony. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Mahalo. Staff?

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MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we'll go back to Carol Lee Kamekona to see if she's available. If not, then *(audio interference)*.

MS. KAMEKONA: Can you guys hear me?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)* what's going on?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. KAMEKONA: Okay. I'd like to --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)*.

MS. KAMEKONA: -- see if Lesley Matthews can testify in my place, and then I will come on after her.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Did Ms. Matthews --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm trying to testify now, what's going on?

CHAIR SINENCI: -- want to testify now or later?

MS. KAMEKONA: She wants to testify now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't know *(audio interference)* disappear again. I mean what...what...and I need to...

MS. KAMEKONA: Lesley wants to testify now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I'm trying to...okay. What you pretending? I mean you trying to...

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. Matthews.

MS. L. MATTHEWS: Good morning, Councilmember Sinenci and Committee. My name is Lesley Matthews, I'm an attorney and advocate. And I want to say that I mahalo the work that Project Vision does. I've had the opportunity to serve with Project Vision and in my capacity just as a volunteer going out and seeing the work that they do. Most recently, on Christmas Day, my family and I, we went out with Project Vision with the water truck to serve folks that are houseless with meals. And you think oh, we're just bringing meals, we're bringing wound care and water. The...what I saw most recently on a day that we celebrate different things is hope, I saw hope. We went to Holomua, and we went up that road, and Maya and Jason knew everybody's name. They knew which car they would be located in, they knew their family's names, they knew the situations that brought them there. And as an attorney and a social worker, you sometimes think of all these great things you could do and how you could help, but

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what brought people there was water, was water. They came out with their water jugs. Through that, that we did on Christmas, we were able to identify other needs that people had. They had needs in accessing safe things for their children. They had...one aunty was there, and she was suffering from some serious medical issues, and she just cried and said thank you so much for coming. She had her kitchen set up in the back of her car with her...with her seasonings and things like that, and there was...you saw...you saw shame leave the room. My pastor says quite frequently there is no shame in this house. Just by meeting people's basic needs, shame is not in that house. Guilt is not in that house. Trust is in that house. No matter if it's a tent, if it's a car, if it's a blanket that's been laid out, that is what this water project has the ability to do. And through just going and giving water, you're able to connect people to other services like safe housing. You're able to connect other people to services like SNAP, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Programs, and temporary assistance for needy families. If people don't have access to basic needs, how do we expect for them to live? I recently had a conversation with the Executive Director of Pacific Cancer Foundation located right here in Maui County, and she talked to me about how people that are houseless are dying because they can't access the treatment that they need as they're facing cancer because they don't have access to clean water and housing. And so I think that this . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . project should be supported year after year. I think that we need more services like this, case management. And in closing, Project Vision is an incredible organization that does work throughout Hawai'i. They have people that are working here right in our community that do wound care, medical care, EBT, SNAP, water, you name it, they're open to it because it's life-saving work. So, thank you so much for putting this on the agenda, and I hope that this project is supported long into the future.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Matthews, for your testimony this morning. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Mahalo.

MS. L. MATTHEWS: Thank you so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff, we'll go back Ms. Kamekona.

MS. KAMEKONA: Aloha kakahiaka and hujambo, Chair, and Members of the Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee. My name is Carol Lee Kamekona, and I am testifying with regard to WASSP-1(2), Water Distribution to the Houseless. Your first question might be why is this project so important for the County to keep providing? It's important because water is important to life. Water helps to regulate many of our basic bodily functions like flushing waste, regulating body temperature, transporting nutrients, and a huge necessity for digestion. Without water, we experience abdominal cramps and constipation. Even though our bodies are made up of 60 percent water, we can only go about three days without clean drinking water. Many of our houseless lack transportation, so their access to basic necessities like food and water is minimal unless they park themselves outside of local restaurants and eateries. We know, of course, to many, it is socially unacceptable and aesthetically unpleasing to the eye. This project came to fruition from the compassion and spirit of aloha exuded by Councilmember Sinenci and his Staff after hearing about the Amala Place sweep, which included over 80 percent of our Kānaka o Iwi. So again, why is it important for the County to provide?

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Because you, as a County Councilmember, represents each and every person who resides in Maui County. Our quality of life depends on each decision you make. So, in closing, I ask each of you, and especially those who claim to be Kānaka, to make the pono decision and approve this project. Ola I ka wai, water is life. Mahalo for listening, and to Project Vision, Maya and Jason, for their compassion and concern for our houseless. Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Kamekona, for your testimony. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Tammy, followed by Tiffany Solinap.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Tammy. Okay. Can we go on to Ms. Solido [sic]?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Tiffany Solinap, followed by S Kaleikoa Ka'eo.

MS. SOLINAP: Aloha. Can everyone hear me okay?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. SOLINAP: Okay. Aloha. My name is Tiffany Alaine Solinap Militante. I am testifying for this water distribution project to the houseless. So, Project Vision Hawai'i is the only nonprofit that consistently and unfailingly delivers water every week to the houseless communities of Maui, including houseless Kānaka. We must keep this water project funded. Maya and Jason deliver 300 gallons of clean water each week, all while building connections and offering emotional support and compassion. If we eliminate this water project, then what are we really saying to these vulnerable communities? We would be saying the houseless don't need clean water, or the houseless don't need access to clean water. This is not what we want for our houseless ohana. Let's ask ourselves who we are as a community, and how we show aloha, and what aloha means to us. Thank you very much for listening.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Solinap. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Again, mahalo for your testimony.

MS. SOLINAP: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair would also want to recognize Member Paltin. Aloha and hujambo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Broadcasting live and direct from Honolulu Hale inside the hallway. There's nobody here except for some guys passing by. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: All right. Great that you could join us this morning, Member Paltin. Staff, will you call the next testifier?

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MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is S Kaleikoa Ka'eo, followed by Adesina Ogunelese.

CHAIR SINENCI: Hello, Mr. Ka'eo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't know why...I mean it's like...

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, we can hear you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)* I mean is it Jekyll and Mr. Hyde kine stuff? I mean is it you just...

CHAIR SINENCI: He might be on another call. Okay. We'll come back to him.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Adesina Ogunelese, followed by Guest 64.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha. Oh, she's here at the Chambers.

MS. OGUNELESE: Testing. Oh, okay. All right. Aloha, City Council. My name is Adesina Ogunelese, and I used to work for Project Vision back in 2016 and '17 when they were contracted to help people sign up for Obamacare. I was also the Maui County coordinator for the Vision van bus that would travel around and give...examine people's eyes and...and give them glasses, or send them to the doctor if they had other emergencies. And so, Project Vision is near and dear to my heart. They are an organization that serves the community, and envisions new ways to be of service. And so I support this water for life project because there is no other in Maui County. And so I would like to see it renewed, I would like to see it expanded into the budget, and I would like to see more employees go out and give water. As one of the ladies was saying, you can only live for three days without water. If you can't get to a store to buy water, or if you can't...or if you're...you have some kind of illness and you can't go and get water, then what are you going to do? You need someone to bring it for you. And as we bring the water, we also find out what their needs are, and we can direct them to resources that can help those needs. So, water is life. We carry our water around with us every day, and Hawaiians have first water rights, and so this project should be a priority for the City Council. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Again, mahalo. Staff, could you...did you want to check back with Mr. Ka'eo?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we'll circle back to S Kaleikoa Ka'eo to see if he's ready to testify. If not, we'll move on to testifier signed in as Guest 64.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mr. Ka'eo? Okay. We'll move on to Guest 64. Are you here to provide testimony this morning?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Testing.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Mr. Ka'eo. Are you here to provide testimony? Okay. Guest 64?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, neither of the testifiers have responded, and there's no one else to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mr. Pascual, do you want to do a countdown before we close testimony at the beginning of the meeting?

MR. PASCUAL: Oh, I apologize.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, we...we have one more. Mr. Law?

MR. LAW: Aloha, Mr. Esteemed Chairman.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha.

MR. LAW: I won't heckle you or anything, but I got to applaud your suit there, you look like a movie star or something. I was just commenting on the first...actually, I'm just trying to stall, yeah, I didn't see that on the behavioral issues that you...appreciate you not going through all that kicking people out and stuff. I'll just...this green printing thing, it kind of all ties in together. I hope everybody is thinking the same thing I am. Wai was the...the value of...you know, if you had wai, like that guy Avery Chumbley, he's rich because he has the wai. So, the GreenPrint thing I'm thinking about, is that like the carbon credit things, and...

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Law, if you have any questions, you can wait until after the presentation. You might come up with...

MR. LAW: All right. I'm just saying, I'm just curious and got to thinking about King Kalakaua, he...he had the right idea where he was trying to print...yeah, he got some money made up. So, I'm hoping this GreenPrint thing --

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh.

MR. LAW: -- we're going to put him on the dollar.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, yeah. I think you might have some questions after the presentation.

MR. LAW: Oh, okay. *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. LAW: Good morning, Esteemed Councilmembers. Good morning, Keani.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh. Oh, okay. We also wanted to invite Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Thanks, JC.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. E kala mai for my tardiness. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office, alone on my side of the office, and we have our Community Outreach Specialist Zhantell Lindo on the other side. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we got your email. Okay. Do you want to do a countdown to close testimony?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's no one else on the list to testify. If there's anyone else in BlueJeans or in the Chamber that would like to testify, now is your time. I will give a brief, quick countdown. Three...two...one.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. If there are no more testifiers for...before...at the beginning of the meeting, without objections, we'll close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Members. Okay. Moving right along.

**WASSP-3: BILL 197 (2022), A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
SECTION 2.82.050, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO
GREENPRINT**

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, our first agenda item is Bill 197 (2022), A Bill for an Ordinance Amending Section 2.82.050, of the Maui County Code, Relating to the GreenPrint. Bill 197 was referred to our Committee due to its time sensitivity. The bill was submitted to the Council on November 3rd of last year. As background, the Conservation Planning Committee was formed to serve as a resource and coordinating body for multiagency and interdepartmental land planning and management of County-owned open space lands. The Committee was established to review and provide recommendations to the Mayor and to the Council on land purchases using open space funds. To guide the Committee review and recommendations on land purchases and management of the properties, a GreenPrint conservation plan is required by Maui County Code Section 2.82.050 to guide the Committee's review process and recommendations. The plan is a guide for addressing the environmental, cultural, and social considerations of land acquisitions and subsequent property management. The Committee is tasked with providing recommendations consistent with the plan's purposes and values. The deadline for submittal of the GreenPrint conservation plan to the Council was the end of last year. However, because the Committee took a while to get established, that deadline has passed. The Committee has been actively working on the project scope, identifying resources for consultant services, discussing functional...foundational components of the plan and looking at funding options. The new proposed date of submission for your consideration today is December 31st, 2024. To educate us on the GreenPrint conservation plan concept, I've invited an expert on conservation planning

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and green printing, Ms. Amy Morris, and she'll provide the Committee with a presentation and to answer any of your questions. We also have with us today Public Works Director...maybe not. If he...we'll see, fingers crossed. He's also the Chair of the Conservation Planning Committee. And we also have Emily Fielding, the committee's Nature Conservancy representative. And let's see, for today, we also have Ms. Cynthia Lola...Lallo...and so, she's with the...the Mayor's Office. And Members, given their expertise on conservation planning, without objection, I will designate Ms. Fielding, Ms. Morris, and Ms. Lallo as resource persons under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Before we go to Ms. Fielding and Ms. Morris, did you want to...the Mayor's Office want to provide some opening comments?

MS. LALLO: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, everyone. I just wanted to provide a couple of comments in relationship to green prints. We had a...a request come into the Mayor's Office to include GreenPrint as a line item in the budget. Just wanted to let you know, we had an opportunity to meet last week to discuss what GreenPrint was in relationship to the Conservation Planning Committee, and had a wonderful education. And we were unclear in relationship to the request of \$350,000 for that line item. We did allot \$250,000 for that budget line item until we get more information. So, definitely looking forward to the presentation, as well as sharing that with Managing Director and Director Molina as well. And so, in...in addition to that, I wanted to let you know that the money was placed as a line item in the Finance Department due to the land acquisition component, and we're trying to decide where the best fit was for the committee, and which department or area would be the best fit in relationship to the mission. Ideas include the Office of Innovations out of the Mayor's Office under the leadership of Mr. Joshua Cooper, who...in relationship to the environmental overlay. We also talked about Finance because of the land acquisition component, or the Department of Agriculture at a later date when they stabilize their manpower and those kinds of things. So, just wanted to let you get a little peek into what we were thinking, and a little bit of rationale for that. So, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Lallo. And great news, thank you for that update. Was...Ms. Morris, were you going to go ahead and share the presentation?

MS. MORRIS: Yeah. I can go ahead and do that now.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MS. MORRIS: Let me get it all queued up.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff, is she able to share her presentation?

MS. MORRIS: Yeah, are you able to see my presentation?

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CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

MS. MORRIS: Okay. Great. Yeah, sorry, I'm unfamiliar with this technology, but I'll go ahead and get started. So, yeah, I'm...I'm Amy Morris. I'm based in California. I have many years of experience doing strategic conservation planning. I was previously the Associate Director of Planning at Trust for Public Land, and I've also been working The Nature Conservancy for several years developing resource...resources related to green printing and strategic conservation planning. So, this is just an overview of sort of how I think of the whole concept and process of green printing, to provide some...some hopefully helpful context. So, what are green prints? This is the way that we have come up with defining them with The Nature Conservancy. So, it's a plan or a tool that reveals the range of benefits provided by natural and cultural resources. It's an adaptable, collaborative, strategic approach that engages partners and uses the best available science to identify multi-benefit solutions for decision makers. Green prints identify diverse solutions to increase community and ecosystem resilience. So, there are lots of ways that green prints have been defined in different projects that call themselves GreenPrint, so this slide just shows a few of those, I'm not going to read them out loud. But just...just to say that a GreenPrint can be a lot of different things in different contexts. But overall, I really think about green printing as an adaptable process that's broadly focused on the environment, including cultural resources and sacred sites. It incorporates engagement and user-centered design. It helps break down silos, so it brings together partners from lots of different sectors and disciplines. It assesses and highlights multiple benefits and tradeoffs. It includes space...place space spatial analysis, spatial data, and the best available science. And it includes interpretation and storytelling that helps translate the data so that it's accessible even to people that don't have a lot of expertise. It's also really implementation oriented, so the purpose of a GreenPrint is to facilitate decision making. So, and just to think about multiple benefits because that's such a core concept for green printing. A benefit, it means, you know, the combination of the resource value and the need, so resources can be lots of different things. Water is almost always primary among them, but wildlife habitat, tree canopy, farmland, and then really importantly cultural resources. And the need can incorporate things like risks to resources, socioeconomic vulnerability, health and equity, and lack of access to current parks and open space. So, why green printing? Green printing...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)*.

MS. MORRIS: Green printing is important because conservation is often not considered very early in planning. It can be really difficult for decision makers and stakeholders to access and interpret relative...relevant data, planning is often really siloed, and since there's limited funding for conservation, it's really important to have green prints to help prioritize investments. So, the process overall, these are some key questions that I work through with...with people when I'm helping to develop a scope around green printing. So, thinking really deeply about what the goals of the GreenPrint will be, and what the goals of the green printing process are. Thinking about who will use the GreenPrint, who will make decisions, who else in the broader community needs to be engaged. Thinking about what data is going to be incorporated, and how the goals and themes are going to be represented. What form the GreenPrint is going to take. And then what

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are all of the resources, what capacity is required for developing the GreenPrint, both, you know, as it's developed now and then as it's managed into the future. So, I think about these two different kinds of goals, as I said. They're process goals, so that's, you know, goals as you're going through the green printing and planning process. and those goals are things like promoting balanced growth, democratizing access to data, developing partnerships, and then there are the...the goals that are specifically associated with the resources and the benefits. So, those are things like protecting water quality, protecting cultural resources, expanding access to open space. There are also...you know, users and stakeholders are both really important. The difference between users and stakeholders is that users are...are going to be more sort of in the weeds involved in implementation. So, whatever kinds of technical tools come out of the green printing process, you want to be really focused on ease of use for the users, and make sure that it's going...the GreenPrint is going to help answer the questions that the users need to be answered. And then stakeholders can be, you know, much broader groups that are listed here. There are lots of different engagement strategies that can be part of green printing, and this is a big piece of what I often help people design. So, you can have, you know, closed advisory group meetings, you can have meetings specifically with technical experts, you can open community and public meetings, you can have interviews and focus groups, online surveys, telephone polls, speak-outs and intercept surveys, and then all kinds of sort of creatively focused engagement strategies, depending on what your goals are around...around outreach and engagement. I typically think of layers in engagement with the GreenPrint, so you'll usually have a core team, outside of that an advisory team, outside of that you'll have interviews and focus groups involving, you know, particular types of...of target users or experts, and then maybe outside of that, polling and speak-outs and workshops that are geared to a broader community group. The steps in the green printing process are assessing feasibility and securing funding, engaging users and stakeholders, and that's probably going to start actually alongside that first step. Designing and refining whatever the...the tools are that you're developing, launching the GreenPrint, and then evaluating and adapting. This is a version of the green printing process that I developed when I was with Trust for Public Land, so it just sort of shows the different stages, and also how the community engagement is...is...really creates iteration in the process. So, as you get more information from technical experts and more understanding of community perspectives, then that informs how you address and interpret and present the data that are part of the GreenPrint. So, there are a few different kinds of capacity that are required for developing a GreenPrint. One is process design and just oversight of the overall development of the GreenPrint. One is, you know, stakeholder community partner engagement. Another is, you know, GIS expertise, science expertise, and planning expertise. And then also, report or tool development, so whatever kinds of reports or tools you're going to come up with that may, you know, require a special skillset around, you know, design or computer programming, depending on what you need. So, there are a few different forms of green prints. There are green prints where you map a small number of very specific priorities, that tends to be a little easier to implement, but not very flexible. There are green prints where you do wall-to-wall priorities for more resources. So, that's slightly less easy to implement and may be more flexible because you can, you know, look at different combinations of resources. There are green prints that build in user-defined priorities and custom reporting. So, that's

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on the technical side. A little bit more of an investment, but more flexible for the end users. And then there are green prints that are based around assessing future scenarios and impacts of conservation actions on future scenarios. So, that can go in lots of different directions. It's very flexible, but it's also, you know, technically more complicated. So, a few different use cases. These are...you know, in the...in the Bay Area where I am, the Association of Bay Area Governments uses the Bay Area GreenPrint in its assessment of priority conservation areas. The infrastructure agencies here use that same GreenPrint to look at root comparisons. I worked on a GreenPrint in Texas that got adopted by a health-oriented foundation to look at, you know, different kinds of priority investments in parks and open space. And then I worked on a GreenPrint for Bernalillo County in New Mexico that's very similar to what you're looking at here, where they needed a GreenPrint to help inform their open space acquisition process, so they...they ended up building that right into...into their process. And so based on the GreenPrint, things had to meet certain targets in order to get the thumbs-up for acquisition. So, that's what I've got presentation-wise. I'm...I'm more than happy to answer any questions.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Morris. And I continue with testimony on this item. I did want to introduce Ms. Morris. She has her PhD and a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies from University of California in Santa Cruz, and her undergraduate degree, she graduated magna cum laude from Columbia University with Bachelors in Environmental Biology. We've got some Columbia alumni here too. Okay. We'll open testimony at this time. Staff, do we have any testimony?

MR. PASCUAL: The next testifier on this item is Jeremy Jarvis, followed by Thomas Duran.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM WASSP-3 . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Jarvis? Are...are you here for the GreenPrint? Oh, for...he's here for the next item.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Thomas Duran.

CHAIR SINENCI: He's also here for the second item.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there are no other testifiers on this list. If you would like, I could give a brief countdown.

CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead.

MR. PASCUAL: If there's anyone out in BlueJeans or in the Chamber that is...that wants to testify on this item, please make yourself present. I will give a brief countdown. Three...two...one. Chair, you may close testimony on this item.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Members, if there are no objections, I'll now close testimony for this item.

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . . END PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM WASSP-3 . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Okay. Members, at this time I'll open up...do you...I would like to open the floor for discussion on Bill 197, or if you have any questions for Ms. Lallo or Ms. Morris. Do we have Ms. Fielding on, Staff? We were supposed to have a third resource person here. We don't...

MS. FIELDING: Yes.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, *(audio interference)*.

MS. FIELDING: Yes, I'm here. Emily Fielding is here, yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, hi. Okay. Hold on. Let me introduce you. Emily Fielding represents The Nature Conservatory *[sic]* on the Conservation Planning Committee. She is The Nature Conservancy's Hawai'i Marine Program Manager. And just last month she was promoted to the Statewide Manager from her position as the Maui Marine Program Manager. And so, she brings to us over 16 years of experience with The Nature Conservancy to this Committee. So, Ms. Fielding, welcome, and do you want to provide some comments?

MS. FIELDING: Just thank you for inviting us and thank you, Amy, for presenting on the GreenPrint process. I'm...I'm delighted to *(audio interference)* committee that's working on this process. And we are happy to bring the...the Council and the Mayor's Office into this, and really try to get this process funded for the benefit of the land acquisitions in the future.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Fielding. And yes, mahalo for initiating this process, we really appreciate it. Okay. Members, any questions for our resources? We have a question from Chair Lee, and then Vice-Chair Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello. Thank you, Chair. Ms. Fielding, are you asking for additional funding for this project? And if so, how much? And also, I thought the main purpose of today's meeting was to extend the deadline for the Planning Committee to adopt and submit the GreenPrint to the Council.

MS. FIELDING: That...the extend...extending the deadline is very important, so that's...absolutely needs to be done. Just as an aside, we're trying to get the...the process funded in addition so this process can go ahead. It's not possible to do it without funding. The...the County doesn't have the resources internally.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Did the Council give you \$250,000 previously, and what's the status of that?

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MS. FIELDING: Yeah, Cynthia from the Mayor's Office just announced that they discussed the request, and they put in \$250,000 in the budget for this in FY'24.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, you didn't receive any funding from the Council previously?

MS. FIELDING: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see.

MS. FIELDING: That's correct, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, the process has been going on since 2016?

MS. FIELDING: You know, the committee just convened last year. So, yeah, but I think the law was passed in 2017, and then the committee was convened, and COVID happened, the committee was convened last year, and then the committee was in the process of discovery. And this is one of the points of, you know, discovering that you really need an external body to be...someone qualified to lead this process and...and funding to do so.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you for your information. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. We have a question from Member Johnson, then Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good...thank you for the presentation, Ms. Morris. Good to see you, Ms. Fielding, once again. So...okay. I guess I'll...I'll ask Ms. Fielding this question, but maybe and anybody else can address it, but what's the difference between a green plan and a conservation plan?

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Fielding?

MS. MORRIS: Do you want me to answer that, Emily, or...

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, go ahead --

MS. MORRIS: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- Ms. Morris.

MS. MORRIS: Yeah.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

MS. MORRIS: I would say there's not necessarily any difference between a GreenPrint and a conservation plan. A green printing process is a conservation planning process that has...according to me and...and, you know, sort of other people that we've convened around sort of defining what it is, has a few specific elements including, you know, user-centered design, you know, making sure to do certain kinds of engagement, you know, using the best available science, developing, you know, tools that facilitate decision making. So, I think...yeah, it's basically just a specific approach --

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MORRIS: -- to conservation planning.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. So, again this is more of a general question. So, I understand that the funding that you're looking for is to fund the GreenPrint, that's my understanding. NFWF also has funds for conservation plans. So, I could see that if you guys got maybe 250, but you were asking for 300, you could go and get NFWF and maybe match your funds and make it so that you have a bigger pot of money. I...my understanding was and maybe...so, my first question is, is are you guys looking for other pots of money or other different ways to fund because maybe you can get some funding from NFWF? And the other question is, is I've always thought that conservation plans or green prints were a way...they serve a couple purposes, but I didn't...in your presentation, Amy, I'm not sure if this is part of that, is that by doing a conservation plan or a GreenPrint, it allows to apply for big funding to the Feds because you can say we're not just asking for 3 million, we're making a plan, here's the plan with --

MS. MORRIS: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: -- you know, you're kind of...you're not, you know, playing Whac-A-Mole, it actually allows you to get more bigger pots of money because you have a GreenPrint in your hand. Can you guys speak on that?

MS. MORRIS: Yeah. I...I think that's a great point, and I think it's absolutely true that a lot of the big public funders will look to you having done a planning process, and they will be very reassured both by the community engagement side of that work and the data analysis side of that work.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: So...so...so presently, Maui County does not have any kind of conservation plan or a GreenPrint for...for County. I don't know if it's State level they might have anything like that, but for us...is that how you guys look at it for counties and states?

MS. MORRIS: The scale can vary widely. So, yeah, could be...State is honestly a larger scale than I, you know, would typically recommend doing a GreenPrint for, just because it's a tricky scale to do engagement at.

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VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MORRIS: But as far as what's...what exists for Maui...Maui County right now, I'm not sure.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Right. Okay. So, the Conservation Planning Committee, Emily, you were talking that you guys had just started meeting, and do we have representation on that committee for Maui County?

MS. FIELDING: Yeah, our Chair is...Chair Molina and Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci, and then it's a...I'm an ex officio member along with many others, and then there's...it's a representative...community representatives make up the body of the committee.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: So, and is it going to stay the same? Is Councilmember Sinenci still going to stay on there? And was that Director Molina was...is that who you mean?

MS. FIELDING: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, great. Are they...is the committee the same?

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Johnson, my appointment just expired as well, so this Council would have to choose another Member to sit on...on the conservation committee, and we can (*audio interference*).

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, that's good to hear.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. And we can go ahead and begin that process.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Great. All right. Well, I would like to recommend you to continue your excellent work on that, Chair. But thank you so much. Thank you for my...allowing me these times for these questions. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Vice-Chair Johnson. Member Sugimura, you had a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. So, as...as it was presented...thank you very much, Cynthia Lallo, for also sharing what's in the Mayor's Budget for this organization. It's going to be in Finance, so it'll be a part of the County. Is there a nonprofit that presented to you, or maybe it's one of the other presenters...oh, okay. So, Emily or Amy, is there a nonprofit that you're working with, or is this going to be 250 to be with the County? And I wonder if we're going to go after some Federal grants that may be available.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Fielding?

MS. FIELDING: The funding...yeah, the funding was meant to go...to be...to go to the County, and to go through their normal procurement process, and not...I...I wrote a letter request on...from The Nature Conservancy, but just as...in my role as a committee...ex officio

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committee member and advocating for the needs of the committee.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, this may be another aspect (*audio interference*) try to get some Federal NRCS or some of the other grants. Ms. Lallo, do you have a comment about that, or a structure?

MS. LALLO: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. This is the request that we received in our office on February 8th, 2023, just to be clear, was...we just got it. So, we just met last week, and Ms. Fielding had put in the request for 350,000, right. Had the discussion, we didn't really know, have a lot of background or information, wanted to hold a spot in the budget, so we did that, again, at the 250, but clearly we will be looking at what the other opportunities are. I know Director Molina is also...you know, we're tag teaming on that, and we're looking to see where we can expand the opportunities, yeah, to support the...the committee and the GreenPrint.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Excellent. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Ms. U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'll apologize for my voice, I know it sounds a little funky. But I have a question for Ms. Fielding, or maybe even you, Chair, but I'm curious to what are some of the setbacks you guys faced? Because I think this is the second extension. And hopefully...I know you guys just met, but it doesn't seem like we'll continue the setbacks, but what were some of the setbacks you guys had in getting together?

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Fielding, I know Jordan is not here today, but Miss...Member Rawlins-Fernandez put in the chat that we began in 2018. Did you want to respond, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, Chair, I would love to. Okay. Mahalo. So, I'll...I'll give a little bit more background to this Committee. So, on July 31st, 2018, the Parks, Recreation, Energy, and Legal Affairs Committee took up the matter of creating a GreenPrint and land management committee. And the chair of that committee introduced this bill, and it was passed by the full Council in the following months. And part of the impetus of this committee was that the County was starting to acquire land for open space. And instead of continuing to just acquire based on some of the community's requests, it was thought that we would need a GreenPrint instead to help guide the County in this acquisition. So, those that are sitting on this committee, you know, we should be very grateful to. It's not them who are asking for the money, it's us, the County, who is asking them to do this work. So, thank you so much for doing this work. And if it costs money, as it was discussed back on July 2018, I can put the minutes and the information in the chat so people understand that it's...it's not them that's asking for this, it's...it's the County that's asking for this document. And so, when that was initially passed, it was at the end of 2018, and then in 2019 we had six new Councilmembers. The first...so, when this bill was passed, it was mostly made up of directors from our County departments, and that really didn't make sense to me. So, I

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had introduced a bill that incorporated more community members. And I spoke with the author of this bill, and he was supportive of that direction, and so we passed that. And in passing...in creating a new makeup of this Conservation Planning Committee, we also changed the deadline. Because in 2018, they envisioned this GreenPrint being completed in a year or a year and a half, I can't remember how long, but at that time, we had...we had changed it. It...it took some time for all the amendments to this bill to be taken up in committee, discussed, as well as the terms. And we eventually got that passed, I...I think, in maybe like 2020-ish. And then from there we started to seat the different people who would sit on this committee. So, it's just been a really long process of putting the committee together. And then the...the person who was going to staff this committee left the County, so was no longer working for the County. And so, then the Mayor's Office needed to find someone to fill that position to staff this committee. And so, it...it was...it's just been on and on a lot of setbacks, and...and that's what you asked, what were the setbacks, and those were the setbacks, and so that's how we got here today. And I'm really happy that we finally have it staffed, have it...have all the seats filled, and we're discussing how we would be able to make this GreenPrint happen. And if the estimate is it's \$250,000, you know, I trust the experts on this Committee to give us the correct guidance. And I'm...I'm supportive of, you know, any additional funding. But I think the County--because it's our request to this Committee to make this happen--should also be looking for any kind of matching funds, Federal funds, and not put that on the Committee to do that work. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. For...my apologies, all the work that you (*audio interference*). Ms. U'u-Hodgins, did that answer your question? You had any other questions?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It did, thank you so much. And let's not forget, in 2020, we were all stuck at home for quite a while, so it totally makes sense. I was just trying to understand the setbacks.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, that's why we brought it up too, just to kind of --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- refresh everybody --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Perfect, thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- and...and get you guys onboard.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I do have one more quick question.

CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I know Ms. Lallo kind of spoke to maybe which department might be overseeing this, but I wonder if that was a previous conversation we've had, and then what department in our Administration would oversee the green printing.

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Thank you.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. I am not aware of the history, so I have absolutely zero idea. What I presented here was the conversation that we had last week. So, unfortunately, I don't have, you know, the wisdom of...of previous...previous Administrations, so maybe someone can speak to that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, and...and Ms. Lallo and the Administration has been great just kind of catching up with all of these different committees and updating them on the next steps. So, we also met with them as well, just to kind of inform them that the GreenPrint was still on the docket, that we had to do this next step. So, again, mahalo for that quick action. Okay. Thank you. Mr. Cook, go ahead, you have any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, Chair. And I apologize for stepping out for a minute, I might have missed this. Is this...basically the green...the GreenPrint is Conservation land, correct? So, is it creating a new zoning, or is this just how we're going to implement this on Conservation land?

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Fielding, did you want to field this one?

MS. FIELDING: Sure. I don't...no, I don't think it has to be Conservation zoned, it could be Agricultural zoned. You know, the...the purposes...the committee, with the help of consult, you know, the consultants that would be hired to run the process, would decide first upon the goals and objectives. And so, it could be cultural sites, important ag lands. There could be any number of purposes. Wetlands and...and on and on. So, it could...the zoning wouldn't necessarily have to be Conservation, in my mind.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, did you want *(audio interference)*?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, a GreenPrint would not change the zoning. We would need additional legislation to change zoning if that's something that we would like to do. The GreenPrint gives guidance to the County on acquisition and protection, and so, that way, we're doing it in a comprehensive methodical manner instead of whatever is...is the...you know, up for sale, and the County would swoop in to try to, you know, protect it for the community. So, that it...it makes sense for us, as we move forward in...in protecting open space. So, it doesn't have to just be Conservation. As Ms. Fielding said, it...it can also be Ag or other lands, but lands that make sense for the protection for the future.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Mr. Cook, yeah, this is just for the acquired lands by the County using the open space funds. And oftentimes, the County may not be able to manage these lands, so if there is a nonprofit that is willing to manage it, they would need to come with some kind of a management plan before...before the...this Committee. Yeah. Member Paltin, do you have any questions? Yes, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I think my question would be for Ms. Morris or Ms. Fielding. I was wondering if you guys *(audio interference)* developed criteria that

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would (*audio interference*) like, you know, if a bunch of folks want a greenway in West Maui, or a bunch of folks want more pickleball or, you know, a bunch of folks want the County to take control of the Hauola Stone in Lāhainā. Like what...did you guys focus in on any criteria and what the rating would be for how to acquire land, or not yet, that would...that's what the 350,000 request for it was for, and if that request had been itemized for the Administration.

MS. FIELDING: The request...yeah, that...that is the work of the committee, to...to initially set that criteria. You were...you were a little bit garbled, so I think you...you were talking about criteria. And yeah, that's the work of the committee, absolutely. And then as far as the itemization of that request, no, not yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and just to follow up, you folks haven't set the criteria yet as to like, you know, how much public testimony would weigh in, like cost and square footage and...and like that, that hasn't been set yet as to where it would rise to on if we should acquire it or not?

MS. FIELDING: That's right, it has not been set yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Isn't it exciting? I just wondered if the 250,000 was placed in Finance because that's where, you know, the Land Division is, and there's Guy Hironaka and...and I'm not too sure even if he has more people to help him. But I wonder if...or a future thought that maybe this can be in Management where you have Erin Wade and her team and Josiah Nishita and Keku, you know, Mr. Ball of Energy. But I...I wonder if it, you know, can be there so that it...it can take the next steps forward. And I believe that the work of the Finance Department is...is very critical for background information and data, which is...which is needed to take that. But I just wondered as a thought. Okay. Thank you.

MS. LALLO: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. We are absolutely willing to have the conversation, right, whatever makes sense. Like I said, we met last week, and it was just like okay, where's this going, what do we...because we needed to get it into the budget pretty quickly. So, absolutely, willing to have the conversation. We should do what makes the most sense. And certainly, Director Molina, Office of Management is absolutely a consideration. Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Vice-Chair Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And I put the meeting minutes from July 31st, 2018 into the chat for everyone, and we want to have that on Granicus for future research so it doesn't have to be looked up where this came from, so some legislative history. In the meeting minutes, there's a section that talks about what the

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green prints are, what...what purpose it serves. So, the concept of GreenPrint, which is a tool and a model that allows for strategic conservation investments and others use...and other uses for communities and regions to reflect community needs. So, what is a GreenPrint? There are many definitions of a GreenPrint, but that reveals...but the one that we have worked on is a strategic conservation plan or a strategic that reveals the economic, social, and health benefits that parks, open space, and working lands provide to communities. And they go on to say it's not a new idea, we have a couple in Hawai'i. So, again, it...it doesn't have to be for open space, and we don't have to use open funds, it's...we...it's a tool, and we would create this tool that would benefit our County, and would make the most sense for Maui County. And so, it...it...it will be designed in a way that makes sense for us. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Vice-Chair Johnson?

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I...I...I assume this question is for Ms. Fielding. If you recall, I think in 2016, you came to Lāna'i and we worked with The Nature Conservancy on the Lāna'i, I think it was called the Conservation Action Plan, the CAP; is that correct? Now, a conservation action plan, is that open the doors the same as the...the GreenPrint, or is it more...the green prints are more in depth, or...can you kind of speak on that? Because Lāna'i, we did do something similar...or is it similar, is my question. And then...yeah, I'll let you (*audio interference*).

MS. FIELDING: Okay. So, the...the...that was like a community/conservation action plan initiated by community members on Lāna'i to...to look at makai management. So, that process really set...would not go anywhere unless the community...okay, because the...the ownership was with the community, so the community...like any plan, you need someone to...to lead the implementation of it because planning is just one step in a much longer process of getting what you need done, or what you'd like to see done. So, that...it would...it would be very different. I think that was...you know, we facilitated that process for the community, and...and the leaders of that process invited people into that. And there's a nice plan, and I believe you have that...that...that plan at your disposal. So, this is much more formal. I mean this is...would...lots of technical expertise goes into this. One of the main products that comes out of this is a nice GIS interface that would have many layers of information, so you could see the different kinds of things that could happen for, let's say, wildlife...wildlife connectivity, wetlands keep coming to mind for me, you know, either past...degraded wetlands, future potential wetlands. You can be considering sea level rise, for example, in West Maui where multiple parks will be completely inundated by sea level, and there's so many different aspects to look at. And the GIS tool, that's one product of this, will allow County personnel and...and different people to be able to inquire into that database and that spatial system to look at multiple scenarios and where the priorities...where the many priorities might be. But I wonder if we could ask Amy to add to that?

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Morris?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It looked like she had bad connection, Chair.

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MS. FIELDING: Oh, shucks. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. FIELDING: So, much...much more...

MS. MORRIS: I'm...I'm back. Yeah, I would say right, overall it's a much more...it's a bigger, more formal process with more technical outcomes. And it's very, you know, just driven by, you know, wanting to inform decision making and create products that are useable by the people that are going to be doing implementation. So, it's got a very...you know, it's very purpose driven.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So, the money that you folks are asking, it's going be for Countywide green...green prints, right?

MS. FIELDING: Yeah, yeah. The three...you know, Lānaʻi, Molokaʻi, and Maui was --

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. FIELDING: -- the...was the intention. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. Thanks for answering my questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Vice-Chair Johnson. Any other questions for our resources today? Great questions, Members. Okay. So, at this time, the Chair would like to entertain a motion to recommend passage of Bill 197 to extend the adoption date of the GreenPrint to December 31st, 2024.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Moved by Member Sugimura, seconded by Vice-Chair Johnson. Any discussion? I think we...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: We heard it all.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, that was a good...great discussion, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. That looks like seven "ayes," and two excuses...three excuses...oh,

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two excuses, excuse me, Member Kama and Member U‘u-Hodgins. Passes.

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sinenci, Vice-Chair Johnson, and**
 Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Paltin,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sugimura.

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmembers Kama and U‘u Hodgins.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FIRST READING** of Bill 197 (2022) by C.R.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good job, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff, any other...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the Committee may proceed on to the next item.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. We’ve kind of reached our midmorning break, so if Members...without objections, we’ll take a ten-minute break, and then we’ll come back to our second item. I see we’ve got some testifiers today, so, please indulge us for a ten-minute break, and we’ll be back at 10:40, 13 minutes. The WASSP Committee is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:27 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:42 a.m.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha and welcome back. And will the WASSP Committee of Monday, March 20th, please come back to order. It’s 10:42.

WASSP-1(2) MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S SUBJECT-MATTER
JURISDICTION: WATER DISTRIBUTION TO THE
HOUSELESS (RULE 7(B))

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, for our second item this morning we have a Rule 7(B) item relating

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to water distribution to the houseless. I scheduled this item to bring awareness to the need for water services for our houseless population, and my hope that our upcoming budget will address this need. Members, we have Ms. Darrah Kauhane with us this morning. She is the Executive Director for Project Vision Hawai'i...Project Vision, an organization that provides outreach services to the houseless population. They currently have a water truck on Maui, and are able to provide this much-needed water service to Maui's houseless population. They also have over 4,000 trained medical volunteers, provided \$10 million worth of free services to those in need. Ms. Kauhane, do you have any...oh, did you want to go ahead and introduce your...your Staff here today? Or wait a minute, let me designate you guys. Okay. For our second item on water services for the houseless population, we have Darrah Kauhane, Executive Director of Project Vision Hawai'i; Bob Wardlaw, Director of Homeless Services; Maya Vasquez, Community Outreach Worker with Project Vision; and Jason Medina, who is the driver and Community Outreach Worker, all from Project Vision Hawai'i. Members, given their expertise in community outreach to the houseless population, without objection, I will designate Ms. Kauhane, Mr. Wardlaw, Ms. Marquez, and Mr. Medina as resource persons under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Okay. Ms. Kauhane, you wanted to provide some opening comments?

MS. KAUHANE: Aloha mai kākou. Thank you, Councilmembers, for having us this morning.

CHAIR SINENCI: You might have to...

MS. KAUHANE: Thank you so much for having us this morning. Grateful to be here with our...some of our outreach workers here on Maui, as well as some of our staff who come from O'ahu. We're excited to share this presentation with you about specifically our water distribution project that we thank Director Tsuhako for her leadership on and...and you, Chairman. We also wanted to share...take the opportunity to share about our organization in general, and some of the increased services that we would love to be able to provide in Maui County, as we do on the other counties throughout the State. So, thank you so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Kauhane. And also today we have Ms. Lori Tsuhako, Director of Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Director Tsuhako, do you have any comments for us today?

MS. TSUHAKO: Good morning, Mr. Chair and Members. I'll withhold any comments until after the presentation has been made by the agency. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo. Staff, did the majority of testifiers want to testify after the presentation? Is that correct? You guys want to see the presentation first? Okay. We'll go ahead and receive the presentation first.

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MS. MARQUEZ: Aloha. My name is Maya Marquez, and I am a Community Outreach Worker for the water distribution project. This is me distributing water.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Chair?

MS. MARQUEZ: So, these are the main points we wanted to touch base on. Water is not a luxury. As we all know, it is a necessity to survive. We help our most vulnerable houseless populations on Maui at the most remote locations where we can find our clients. We help make connections to other services, and we offer emotional support and compassion.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Chair? I'm sorry to interrupt. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead, Vice-Chair. Hold on, we're...are you just seeing...are you seeing the presentation, Vice-Chair?

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Right. It was very small, I think you have to make it full screen. I didn't know if you were aware. I apologize to interrupt.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. Okay. We're working on it. Hold...hold tight.

MR. MEDINA: Aloha kākou. This is Jason Medina and...

CHAIR SINENCI: Hold on, Jason. We're...we're trying to get...the Members are not...okay. Members, we'll take a five-minute recess for technical difficulties. WASSP Committee is in recess until 10:53. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:48 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:53 a.m.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . *(Audio interference)* go ahead and receive the presentation. Mahalo for your patience.

. . . PPT PRESENTATION. . .

MR. MEDINA: Aloha. I'd like to reintroduce myself. I'm Jason Medina, I am a driver for Project Vision. Hello. Okay. I'm...I'm a driver for Project Vision, and recently got roped into this project because of what I believe in. And yeah, it's become quite the job, and there's lots of room for expansion. So, I'd like to speak about some of the facts and the figures that we found from our own surveying. We overlaid this data from the UN General Assembly, and reminded me how important it is. So, 61 of 73 surveyed respondents admit they face barriers to access of 15 liters of potable water per day, and it being a minimum water access standard, we should definitely look at that. And I looked at the barriers, and was kind of...it hit home. Transportation, we know that Maui can have lots of inhospitable pockets. Let's say your car breaks down and you're in Kahikinui, I'd fear for fainting, dehydration because it's so far from one place to the other, so

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transportation became the first thing that I...I really identified with, with this project. And also, security, we all know that this vulnerable population. Let's say you get the water, and then all of a sudden you don't have it anymore because somebody took it. So, it's...that vulnerability is always a constant factor when being unhoused. Age, it makes sense for itself. That's good. And also, serving the most vulnerable populations. If I may use this as a prop, we've...we're increasing access amongst the time...like during this era where xenophobia is at an all-time high, and it's due to a virus that has kept us distanced. It's told us to keep our distance and stay sanitized. The stigma with...also, technically not being able to wash as much, one would be dirtier, and not...not to be looked upon kindly. Like stay away from these people. So, services have...have become lessened. In addition to the record amount of business closures, social engagement has suffered tremendously, and people have practically gone into hiding. So, I'm happy to be part of the scouting mission with Maya because we go on these missions from here all the way to Hāna and continue to looking...continue to look for individuals. So...and also, like it says, contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to diseases. We are able to offer a safe alternative because river water and going on someone's private property, these aren't safe options. Bullets are bad for your health, and so is dysentery. So, we...us operating a safe alternative and being consistent, we're able to be somewhat of a brand that individuals can trust. That if we come in day in and day out, we're able to show people that we're there for them, and I believe that it adds to self-determination. And once you have the essentials out of the way, like water and shelter, these things start to...in my opinion, they trickle upwards, and people build into more viable "individuals" in society that can take care of their own and get jobs and things like that.

MS. MARQUEZ: Okay. We...one of the most important factors for me is offering emotional support and compassion. Home...houselessness and mental illness have been associated for quite some time, but only recently have services addressed both problems in a concerted way. Rates of mental illness are disproportionately high among the houseless, with up to one-third suffering severe mental illness. 32 percent of those have chronic mental illness, and 29 percent are chronic substance users. Tending to the problems faced by houseless people requires an approach which is compassionate and activated at a community level with the recognition of the problems, high vulnerability and social exclusion that these people face. Relationship building is said to be key, particularly through building trust, getting to know the personal narrative of each individual, and demonstrating empathy along with understanding. Jason and I know each and every one person's name, and that's very important to feel seen in this world. We help by connecting people in a way to have them receive other services, which I think is another very important point. Coordinated and persistent outreach efforts allow organizations like ours, Project Vision Hawai'i, to bring services directly to people experiencing houselessness who otherwise might not seek out services. Many individuals experiencing houselessness are disengaged from, and may be distrustful of, public systems and may be reluctant to seek assistance. Assisting individuals to overcome these barriers often require significant outreach time and effort, and can take months, or even years, of creative and proactive engagement. We must build the trust over time. I've been doing this since July of last year, and it's taken me quite some time to build that trust, and our clients look forward to seeing us every week. With

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community partnerships in place for collaboration and referrals, us as outreach workers focus much of our efforts on engaging clients in the community. The ultimate goal is the health and safety of the individuals through housing, treatment, reunification, job placement, and connection to services and support. And we would like to mahalo all of our partners that we have directly worked with in all of our outreach, and these are some of them.

MR. MEDINA: Also gotten excellent feedback from individuals...there I am right there with...none of the individuals I'll name, just for their own anonymity's sake. But yeah, we've gotten excellent feedback by...from almost everyone who has received a special container that Project Vision, Bob, was able to order for us. It's extremely weatherproof, it has a valve, so it can...you can control the flow and put it into different bottles, but...yeah. They're...they're a hot commodity pretty much. It just keeps the water clean, and...yeah, totally weatherproof. So, what we've done, these are just the...the factoids we've compiled. 300 gallons weekly, and making it at no cost to our clients is, of course, it's...it's one less thing, I repeat, that they have to worry about, which is the essentials. And yeah, 100-plus clients. I say plus, it's in the 130s, 160s, something like that, but it's always...there's always room for expansion. And we take time every month to be able to scout. That's very important, to get to the other side of the island and make sure that we don't miss any...any areas. We want to get every nook and cranny of the island, and if we can't get into difficult areas--like Hāna, where the housing is very sparse, and it's...it's more complicated--we go via word of mouth, and it's that original connection that Maya was talking about to link to people and talk. Oh, how you really doing? Talk story, and then we find things open up, and we open up to more services. We find that people have more needs than just water, but all types of care.

MS. MARQUEZ: So, this is the point-in-time count for Maui 2022, and I was one of the individuals who went out to do this point-in-time count as well. And this is a map of the area where we serve everyone. And you can see that most of them are in very remote areas.

MR. MEDINA: I won't go too much into detail, but these...the family...the first family, they've gone through lots of hardships. We remember when first meeting them, and they were on the West Side and in Cut Mountain, but they had to move. So, they...they were alongside the road, and DOT came, DLNR came, and they got swept. So, where to go? Well, we...but we followed their progress the whole time. And during that, the father in this, his...his brother was...was...well, he's no longer with us, let's say, and we've been there for...with them since the very beginning of this water project, and watching their progress. And we've been able to interview all these individuals. But after his brother died, the little girl's uncle, it was...it was really sad, but at the same time we're...we were able to just offer support and...yeah. That's what I'll say about that family. And the family in the...the lady in the middle, she's...we've watched her move from place to place, and she found us at outreach on Wednesday at the...at the church in Lāhainā on Waiale (*phonetic*). And the last individual is what we call an OG. He's...he's been houseless for at least 20 years in the same area, and we...we're able to get so much history of the island, and just all kinds of...of talking story with this...this gentleman. And very grateful for his presence, and I've learned a lot about the island because of him. And

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yeah, I look forward to being with him. This ethnicity breakdown is...it's...it's very telling. It's...I'm proud to do this work. It also makes me realize that without these figures, our...our job wouldn't be as...as easy to...to give to you all and present. Well, to be on a Hawaiian island as a visitor, my work helping Hawaiians first and foremost makes me continue this work, and it made the project feel more right. So, when I see that it's 50 percent...53 percent Kānaka, I feel that there's...there's headway being made, and I'm offering help with Project Vision in a way that should be going the right way. It's opening the island up to us in a way that I never thought possible, and it opens up conversations that lead to all the services and resources that we find right here--food, medical, shelter, getting people's palapala in order. Definitely. And we even have phones for individuals at outreach, so if they need to make these calls and get SNAP benefits. Nothing is off the table, and houseless individuals don't have to feel invisible, and that leads to detrimental...detriments in their mental health. We just have to stay consistent, and the community will...will slowly heal itself with our help. So, these increase self-determination, and know that their essentials are being addressed. That's all I have to say about that. Mahalo.

MS. MARQUEZ: In just nine months we have engaged 170 people, which is 367.64 per person per year. If we weren't able to provide safe drinking water, and 25 percent of our clients went to the ER for any of the many diseases caused by unclean water, one ER visit average of \$1,100 per visit. This would cost our healthcare system 46,750. In our outreach, these are the obstacles...these are the obstacles that we have come across in this project. Weather, as you know we've had quite a lot of storms recently, which has relocated several of our clients, which makes it more difficult and we have to find them afterwards. Sweeps done by DLNR, MPD, and DOT. And not being able to serve individuals who are within a two-mile radius of a water source, such as those at Kahului Harbor and Kanahā, which means, you know, those who are closer to a water source but are in wheelchairs, how are they supposed to get their water? With mental illness, disabilities, and comorbidities. Mahalo for your time and allowing us to show you the importance of this project for our houseless community. We would like to now share how our decades of experience in mobile health and social services throughout the Pacific can benefit this population on Maui to create aloha and community, the Governor's new goal for homelessness, and change the outcomes for our people.

MR. WARDLAW: Good morning, Chair Sinenci, Co-Chair Johnson, and Members of the Council. Thank you for having us here today. Thank you to Director Lori Tsuhako from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns for your support of this program in spite of our technical difficulties that we've experienced, especially in our reporting. We are making strides to correct those through some...some various ways I'll get to. I apologize, I'm nervous. So, through this program, we're...we're hoping to prove that our focus on supporting each client's path out of homelessness through our various programs that we feel compliment this water program, and vice versa. So, we...and therefore, we ask for the Council's consideration for the expansion of this program. So, currently, we're...we're delivering health, hygiene, and support services across the State. On Big Island, O'ahu, and Kaua'i, we're...we're offering mobile hygiene through shower trailers, and then on Maui, obviously, we're...we're providing the drinking water. And through all this and our other social services, we are the...the largest social service

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organization in the State. But we're more than just water delivery. Here are some examples of our trailers and medical units. As you see on the left there, that's our...one of two trailers we have on O'ahu. Right there we're serving a family out at the Waianae Boat Harbor, and then on the right, that's primarily our vision van, our vision clinic, mobile vision clinic currently located on Maui. And right there we were doing our...our COVID vaccine and testing services. So, over the past three years or so, we've expanded considerably. One, through prevention, so that's screenings, that's vision screenings, COVID screenings, things like that. We're...we've developed a school-based health system. We've gotten into primary care, like I said vaccines and testing, and other vaccines, not just the COVID vaccine. Education and water and food. Serving our houseless populations, we're...again, through the...the mobile hygiene, we're...we're providing wound care through our lovely nurse Robin Collins [sic]. She's served quite a few on this island. Case management and outreach services, workforce development. We...we like to hire from those we serve. And our emergency response. And then through our treatment, through reentry programs that we're developing, cultural options, navigation services, medical home referrals, and free surgeries. So, through...through our mobile outreach, the populations we primarily serve are houseless, and we...we support other providers, as well as our participants. We...we help with congregate settings such as prisons, group homes, shelters. You know, we've mostly helped there with our vision and COVID services, other medical services. Minority communities, as well as through public housing, and homebound, disabled, or other participants who have difficulty with transportation. Maya referenced earlier the 2022 point-in-time count. I know the 2023 point-in-time count numbers should be coming out soon, but the biggest interest here would be the...the number of 741. And they're...you know, as you know, they can be difficult to serve, which is why we think that the...the relationships we're building through...has been through our various outreaches, including the water. You know, they...they help create these...or foster these relationships, and they're more willing to...to receive service. And these are some of our...just some examples of some of our outreaches that...you know, to make a dent in this and that 741 number, we want to...it's important to go where the people are. We hit the pavement and the dirt, whatever it takes. You know, some of these...some of the places we go can be a little intimidating but, you know, the...the more we go, the more trust people have in us. So, here's some more examples, you know, going into the woods, going into the streets. You know, again, just...just wherever it takes. So, according to the point-in-time, 50...52 percent of all homeless in Hawai'i identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and so, you know, obviously it's important to serve those and...yeah. Our SNAP and Med-QUEST programs are part of our social services, and they're based here on Maui. There's the lovely Latonya Smith. She pairs with the...the water project when needed and, you know, we can always press her into service. We also help with the coordinated entry system, meaning housing. We help with legal documents, TANF. And so, here are just some other examples of some of our services that we provide. There's some vision and some SNAP and Med-QUEST and things like that. Now I'll turn it over to Darrah Kauhane, our Executive Director.

MS. KAUHANE: Okay. Aloha again. Thank you for allowing us to share. So, as you can see, our water project, we're really grateful for the opportunity to do this pilot project (*audio interference*) folks this past year...or over the last nine months. But also, we've

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been doing some pilot projects of our own that we wanted to share. Not only are we grateful to the Department of Health and to the Department of Human Services, who have trained us and...and allow us to provide not just the Med-QUEST and SNAP services, but additional types of case management. We're really excited. Our Co-Director of Social Services is also here today from Honolulu, Echo, and she is training our team so that we can dive deeper into the case management and harm reduction scene in the future. But I really wanted to go into our personal pilot project that we've done, that we would love to incorporate more into the water project and into our homeless outreach in general. So, as you see here, our incredible APRN, Robin Garrison, who is in the audience with us today. She, for the last year, since March 2022, has been doing wound care out at different events. As you can see, this is the MPD (*phonetic*) bus that she's accompanying here. But we're able to, with her expertise, find another way to make...to build trust and to gain those relationships with our clients that we're trying to serve. And through it, you saw our ER statistics, it's about \$1,100 on average for an emergency room visit, and through her amazing efforts, she's able to keep our houseless individuals from the ER, many of whom have not accessed healthcare in many, many years. Very excited that we...we went from doing one event a year to now at least four times a week...sorry, one event a week to now four times a week, at least, we're doing these wound care street medicine outreach types of events. And she sees anywhere from 4 to 22 patients in a day, so on average it's about 7 between nurse Robin and nurse Lara, who we've now brought onto the team. And we...I...I...I testified last year at the importance that we thought that this...this program would bring about. And obviously, with all of the other partners helping us to encourage our population to make use of these services, we've been able to almost double the amount...the number of people that we now serve. This year we are on track to double the number of individuals that we're serving, compared to how many we served last year. So, excited to be able to report that we're seeing anywhere from one-fourth to one-half of the population that the point-in-time count identifies as unhoused in the County, and so, we're asking for the Councilmembers to consider additional support of this program so that we can continue and expand it. We feel that once we can see these individuals, build that trust, we can also get them into a medical home. We are by no means wanting to be their medical home, but we're a way...a gateway, a way for them to get into other types of services. Of course, when someone is in need of medical care, that brings up the issues of Medicaid. We're able to help them obtain that medical insurance, but also, with that comes the case management that is now reimbursable through our MCOs, and our...our team is working on those...working with those patients to ensure that they have full, 360 degrees holistic case management and care as well. So, a couple graphic photos are going to come on, I'll just show real quickly, but I just want to show the impact that nurse Robin and our other street medicine team members throughout the State are making. This is one of our patients, you can see the before and after. I'll show you another one. Look away if you don't want to see it. This is another before, during, and after. After many months of her care, this individual is obviously a lot healthier and...and free from having to go to the emergency room where they...where this patient said they feel very discriminated, not respected, and they don't feel like they can trust the...the normal medical system, but they do trust nurse Robin and our outreach workers that obviously put in the time and are dedicated to be there with them week in and week out. Just wanted to show some of our...some of the ways

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that we deliver this wound care. As you can see on the left, sometimes it's just an emergency backpack that has everything that we need and a toolbox. You can see rolling there is a refrigerator where we have vaccines and medication that can be taken around. In the top one, this is us providing that care out of one of our mobile medical units. And sometimes it's just by foot, whatever we can do. So, again, extremely grateful for the dedication of our team members. This is something that we would love to bring into this water project and expand here in Maui. Our...our nurses are participating in many outreach events, but we would love to have them come with...with our water team and to be able to reach those even harder...harder areas where, you know, individuals may not make use of outreach events. But altogether, we feel that, you know, we're bringing about a holistic approach with our ultimate goal of getting people off of the streets, out of the beach parks, and into...into their home. So, we try to address the issue of houselessness, we definitely don't have the answer to the problem, but we're trying to address it from many different facets. You know, whatever works for the patient, we're trying to understand what their primary needs are, building that trust by helping to provide those needs, and then assisting them in additional steps once we gain their trust in that. So, I just wanted to show that not only do we, you know, climb up into the mountains, we go into public housing, you know, addressing family issues, but particularly, we've chosen to focus on our houseless community because about 50 percent of that houseless community is Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. And so, we want to be able to provide for our people and help them into the next step of their journey. So, just wanted to conclude and say mahalo for allowing us to...to brag on our team a little bit. Very proud of what we've been able to build over...especially the last three years, we've gone through a great expansion. You know, one...one bright side from COVID (*audio interference*). I do want to mention that our organization was originally started in 1985 with the Hawaiian Eye Foundation, and so, we've learned to do this mobile throughout the Pacific, not just here in Hawai'i, and that has...I just came back from the Marshall Islands, for example, where, you know, there aren't many supplies at all, but even when we have very few resources, our team members are flexible, we utilize...you know, we spread aloha with whatever we have. We want to be able to take care of people and build that relationship and trust, that's really what matters, and that's what's going to get people off the streets and out of the beach parks and into the homes. So, mahalo for allowing us to share.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Kauhane. Thank you, guys. Mahalo for your work. Bob, do you want...go ahead.

MR. WARDLAW: Thank you, Chairman. I just wanted to also address...I mentioned earlier, and I forgot to give the full thought about our difficulties with our reporting. We have taken some steps to improve those. We just...we hired a data manager recently, and she's currently working on getting the data cleaned up and corrected. And Darrah mentioned we also hired a co-executive...sorry, a Co-Director of Social Services who...she's very...very knowledgeable in...in developing systems and...and getting things on track, Echo Wcyhe. So, we're...we're grateful for both of those, and working on putting a better foot forward. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Wardlaw. And I'm sure Miss...Director Tsuhako will get

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you...get you in line too. Okay. Staff, at this time, we'll open testimony for this item.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier on the list is Rainey Dock Matthews, followed by Jeremy Jarvis.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Matthews.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM WASSP-1(2) . . .

MS. R. MATTHEWS: Aloha. Thank you, Chair Sinenci, for allowing me to testify this morning. Thank you to Darrah and her team for this marvelous, this excellent presentation with regards to Project Vision. And I also say aloha to all the Committee Members that are present and not present. I'm...I'm very...as you all have learned from me, I can be very passionate with regards to items and issues, especially ones that impact people, and I say impact people because sometimes we are...we tend to be focused on the mechanics rather than the humanity of the issue. And with this presentation, I'm hoping that it has brought us back to the humanness of this particular issue on the project water. And I...I do hope that this Committee and the County Council will definitely implement a line item with regards to the support...budget item with regards to the Project Vision water. I...I'm looking off here to the side, I have some notes here. I want to quote a...I want to read a quote from Governor Josh Green on homelessness. "It will take compassion, commitment, and significant resources to take on this challenge, as well as leadership, political will, and board action from our elected officials, and the cooperation of organizations across our State working together and implementing multiple approaches." And then the mission of Project Vision, I see, is to increase access to health and human services, and their vision is to improve health, equity. And all of this takes...much of this takes water. It takes water. We need water. They need water. I recall when I was out on one of the houseless outreaches over in Kihei and Project Vision was there, and I was there with my daughter. And one of the houseless people there said to my daughter, just hope...no, let them remember our names, let them remember our names, and that's something that I'm very impressed by Maya and . . .(timer sounds). . . Jason, the names of those folks that they are serving. And I did hear that, and I'm going to wrap up. I do see the...half of our houseless folks here are kupuna, and then there are our veterans who have fought for the freedoms, that have fought, and now they are out hoping that we will fight for them. Rather than spending \$1 billion to house a car in a parking garage, I...I would hope we would strongly consider spending \$60,000 to house...to help with regard to the health and welfare of those that do not have homes, that do not have what we consider as homes, that are depending upon us for trust and integrity. And again, I say thank you to Darrah, Jason, and Maya for your excellent presentation. I am very familiar with Project Vision, and I support them. Thank you for this time.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Matthews, for your testimony. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Again mahalo for joining us. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next person wishing to testify is Jeremy Jarvis, followed by Thomas

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Duran.

MR. JARVIS: Aloha kakahiaka. My name is Jeremy Jarvis, and I'm a citizen of the County of Maui. So much of what I intended to say today has already been said quite eloquently before the beginning of the meeting and...and with the presentation. So, I guess I'm just one more voice in this court speaking to the fact that when...when we go out-- and I say we, I...I volunteer with grassroots organization and...and engage in...in mutual aid action, nowhere near with the gusto and...and the...and the intention of...of the people that are sitting up here. So, I commend your efforts. And I...and when we go out and visit those in our community who have intentionally been marginalized, right, as a citizen on the North Shore, I've watched as people who were living as closely as they can to their resources, right, who were living in the bushes between...between Pā'ia Bay and...and Baldwin Beach, there was a large encampment of people in there because it's close to food and water. And as they get swept from there again and again, and it's quite dehumanizing to have all of your belongings and everything you know and love brought out in front of you, and oftentimes just thrown in the trash. So, they're pushed out to the margins. And when we go out to them and actually go out of our way and take time out of our lives to acknowledge their humanity, it...it lessens the probability of the spiral into drug addiction, substance abuse, and mental health issues that...that become aggravated when people aren't seen and felt and appreciated as human beings. And so, to restore that kind of dignity to people by going up and showing up for their basic needs. I mean we're not even talking about going and giving them big gifts, we're talking about something that most of us in this room often take for granted. You know, the fact that if I get a cut I can go wash my hands, right. The fact that my laundry, I can go...I can go wash my laundry. That means when I enter a store, people are going to have a little more respect towards me than if I show up with dirt on my face and...and dirty clothes. And so, those are just some of the ways that...that water plays a part in our...in our daily lives and the way others see us, right, and so, those...those...those people who have been...these are our neighbors, these are our relatives, these are our ohana that have been pushed the margins, that have been...been dealt a rough hand for one reason or another. . . .(timer sounds). . . They deserve our love, and they deserve basic human...human necessities. And...and so, I'd like to make sure that this voice is heard, that this work continue to be supported in as much...with as much support as we can...as we can allocate. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Jarvis, for your testimony. Members, any questions for the testifiers? Seeing none. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Thomas Duran, followed by Bob Wardlaw.

MR. DURAN: Good morning, friends. And thank you for the opportunity to share some testimony. My name is Thomas Duran, I'm a New World Member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, and I'd like to greet you in my language. [*Spoke in Arapaho*] I bring that up because it's a core part of our tribal practice that when we come of age, we fast without food and water for four days and four nights, and that's...have the core belief in our whole tribe that water is life, and important to continue to live vitally. I'm only 20 months removed from being in

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desperate need of your services. Now I'm a newly minted Maui resident, and a productive member of society. 20 months ago I was experiencing homelessness, and it was fine when I was living in a city near clean drinking water, and eventually I ended up getting pushed out by a sweep out to the country, and clean water was not present. I ended up drinking from a pond that was infected with Giardia, and I got it, and I went to the hospital. I was so sick that I was concerned that I wasn't going to make it. Luckily my cousin took kindness on me, and brought him into my home...brought me into his home, and I was able to get clean water and good food, and finally able to go to a doctor and get mental health help, and help fight my addiction problems that I was suffering with. All of that would have been very difficult to do without that hand of my family member, and I realize that not everyone is so fortunate as I am to have family like that. So, a program like yours is really important. So, thank you for the work that you're doing. And I hope that you can continue to get the funding that you need in order to reach out to those people that aren't as fortunate as I was to have family there to support them. So, I just wanted to give my testimony as to how important a program like this could be. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Duran, for your testimony. Members, any questions for Mr. Duran? Seeing none. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I apologize, Mr. Wardlaw was one of our presenters. The next person wishing to testify is Rethabile Molapo, followed by Grace Shigetani-Fraley-Reese.

MS. MOLAPO: Aloha kakahiaka, Council. My name is Rethabile Molapo. I am here to support Project Vision Hawai'i water distribution project. As a regenerative farmer, I see what happens to my plants one day without water. There is a shriveling, a disintegration. A few days of drought, harsh sun, and neglect guarantees death and ceases production. In 2018, as a lone backpacker through Montana's mountain ranges, I accidentally lost my water filter by mistake while collecting water and had to hike with 40 pounds on my back, so everything that was sustaining me and my life force. And it was the last water source for eight miles outside of the trail. I was lucky to have somebody waiting for me at the end of the trail to catch me while I was scared and thirsty and exhausted. My mind went wild with stress and anxiety and altered my psychological state. I was lucky that it was the last 8 miles of the 200 that I had been on for 30 days, over a month in the wilderness. That day I became acutely aware of how water feels as a necessity in my human body, and I do not wish that on anyone. This initiative helps vulnerable houseless populations. I was once houseless here on Maui for over one year while having trouble securing affordable housing because of the general scarcity. I can relate to searching for water to clean, feed, and hydrate myself. It was often the first task of the day. I was lucky again for being educated, young, attractive, and abled bodied to make connections, labor in agriculture, and climb my way out. Water promotes health and strength to those fighting their way out of poverty and houselessness. Water is life affirming. I do not work with the organization, but I have seen their work and impact. I am witness to their efforts on social media and in the community collecting vessels and including others that are necessary to expand their reach, and include everyone in their efforts. There are enough challenges in houselessness, and water does not need to be one of them. Being houseless is not a crime. Removing access to clean water is a

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punishment. I am proud to know that there are some individuals, Maya and Jason, who are willing to step up and distribute for all of us, all we have to do is support. It's very simple. Thank you. Mahalo for your time. Any questions?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Again, thank you.

MS. MOLAPO: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Grace Shigetani-Fraley-Reese, followed by Hop Hopkins.

MS. SHIGETANI-FRALEY-REESE: Aloha kākou, Chair --

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha.

MS. SHIGETANI-FRALEY-REESE: -- and Councilmembers. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I strongly support Project Vision's water distribution project. Maya and Jason are the...the epitome of the community outreach worker that we want to be connecting and empowering and giving life and love to members of our community. Maya and Jason have been engaged in this work long before the...the establishment of this project, and have been doing that type of work before. And I...I wholeheartedly support the County creating...reducing barriers in the budget to allow this...this water distribution project, which is essential to our community to function more smoothly, and to allow it to continue on without a need for continued discussion over the essential nature of water for all of our community. Ola I ka wai, water is life. This is a beautiful way to provide that essential human right to our community members through an organization that has employed exemplary community members, who give their whole heart to this work. And I have also witnessed it personally and in the community, and I just want to give a big mahalo to everyone involved in the project and to the Councilmembers that have supported it. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Fraley-Reese. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next person wishing to testify is Hop Hopkins, followed by Adalila Garcia.

MR. HOPKINS: Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha.

MR. HOPKINS: Good morning and howdy. My name's Hop Hopkins. I'm a new guest here in Maui. I'm originally from Dallas, Texas, and I've spent quite a bit of time in different parts of the...of the U.S. and most recently in California. And during that time, I've done

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a lot of work with grassroots organizations and indigenous communities there, and I was...had the benefit of learning a concept promoted by Charles Sepulveda, who's a indigenous professor and activist and is called Kuuyam. And in the Acjachemen language that means how to be a good guest when you're on someone else's land. And being here as a guest on someone else's land, I think it's important to be here today and support Project Vision and the staff and those in our community who are less fortunate than...than some of us. Coming from a working poor background, I've known what it's like to be without food and water and a house, and not being sure what comes next. So, I think it's really important that we support this project. And having been an outreach worker 20-plus years ago in the...in the AIDS epidemic, being in bridges and forests and bathhouses and under bridges and places where our folks who are in desperate situations find dignity, and it's often unfortunately in the shadows, away from everyone else. Building a relationship with folks who are in dire straits is very difficult, and I just want to say the 60,000 or \$60,000-plus it would take to renew this program is a drop in the bucket. You heard the staff mention that some of the situations that houseless people get into in terms of injuries, additional mental health services, the cost on us as a community is much greater by ignoring this problem than by being preventative and...and moving forward with it that way. Some of our testifiers have given water is life. It's a human right, not a luxury, and we have the opportunity to provide that at a very low cost to us. We just need to step forward, move forward, and to make that happen. I want to make sure that it's heard that I support the program, and I'm very much in support of the...this Committee doing the work to find out a way to allocate a permanent line item in the budget to secure funding to make sure this happens. If that doesn't happen, again, the cost will be exponential, and we'll see an upshot in community needs in other ways. Last, I just want to thank everyone on the WASSP Committee and those who are online watching, providing support not just here, but in other ways to support and move our community forward. Mahalo for your time. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Hopkins, for sharing your testimony. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next person wishing to testify is Adalila Garcia, followed by Sharon Banaag (*phonetic*).

MS. GARCIA: Good morning. My name is Adalila Garcia. I live in Ha'ikū, and I am here to support Project Vision Hawai'i and their water distribution project, and to request that it become a permanently funded project by the County. I feel one, just as a member of...of the community, while we have...we...we can understand that providing access to water benefits the houseless population, I personally feel that it benefits me as a member of this community when folks like Maya and Jason are out providing access to water to folks because it impacts my wellbeing, not just the wellbeing of the folks that...that are being served. And I think it's...it's important to note that, and to understand that we all benefit from that. We benefit not just financially in terms of reduced costs, but we benefit in terms of mitigating health hazards, furthering safety in our communities. And so, I...for me, it's important to recognize that it's not just houseless folks that benefit when they are receiving these services, but really, that we are all benefitting. And again,

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like...like some other folks have pointed out, this is a low-cost, easy, simple measure that...that has a great and tremendous impact for our island. And so, to me, it feels like a no-brainer to...to...to permanently fund this project. It's not...it shouldn't be controversial, and if it is controversial, I would question the motives of the folks who...who find issue with...with a simple measure that provides the most basic base level needs to...to folks here. Yeah, I'm just looking at my notes. I think that's...that's pretty much it. I just...I...I think that this project is really important. It has the support of...of...of me, my neighbors, and I...I feel like to do...to do less than would be a great disservice to our community. This is a low cost and yet high impact way of addressing some of the most pressing needs on this island. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any questions? Seeing none. Staff, we have another testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, Sharon Banaag is not wishing to testify, so the last testifier on the list is Faith Chase.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Chase.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Committee. I have some notes. I do support this organization continuing their water delivery. I am interested in knowing...I'm actually concerned a little bit about the pictures shared today. I would just like to caution the organization. I know that it's difficult to get permission forms signed from this vulnerable population, but that was lot of...that was a lot of sensitive footage. Sorry, that's just my heart talking right now. I'm interested to know if there is a grants...if there's grant work being done internally with this organization or from the national level so that there's this match funding that might be happening that Maui County can not be the only funder. And I'm really glad to hear about the data...the data manager, that's key for any organization. I just want to reiterate something that, of course, Director Tsuhako knows...we go to Homeless Alliance meetings together, we go to Healing Solutions for Homelessness Commission meetings together. I've spoken with her personally before that the point-in-time count is not accurate. I'm happy to hear that you're fine tuning whoever that one presenter was, you're fine tuning your data. I don't believe that 53 percent is the accurate Native Hawaiian or indigenous peoples of the place population number. Just for an example, that the point-in-time count is...is not accurate is that when it was done in Hāna, there was only one houseless person reflected, counted, and so, that's definitely not true. I would just also like to ask, as you do fund this organization, that you carefully think about balancing the faith-based organizations and the other nonprofits organizations. Just make sure that you have that, a fair...fair distribution. And obviously, this a reflection of the larger needs. I would just like to echo one of the testifiers before that was asking for...I believe she was alluding to the \$60,000 for keeping people who need their cars to sleep in and be safe. While we all know that there is actually \$200,000 allocated for that parking lot, and despite that...that dissolving, that idea dissolving, I would...I would encourage anybody, perhaps just from maybe two different...two...two Committee Members, two Councilmembers put their heads together and bring that parking...safe sleeping parking lot idea back to the table. Thank you for your time today.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo (*audio interference*) testimony. We have a question for you from Vice-Chair Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Faith Chase. Good to...good to hear from you. I just want to clarify what you said is that your concern...if...if I'm saying this right, you're concerned that some faith-based organizations are getting more funding than nonfaith-based or you're just...you just...can you clarify that?

MS. CHASE: Well, everybody knows how serious water has been in my life, so I wouldn't...I would say that this is absolutely like the previous testifier said, a no-brainer. But as you...as you work on your budget and you balance your monies, we're just an island, we're a pebble in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. It's very clear to see which organizations we have, which faith-based organizations we have, the work that they've done. You have more to work with, I just want to see balance. I just want to see balance. And also, a lot of these faith-based organizations that the County has been funding have received huge donations from our more wealthier new residents, as everybody knows. I'm...so, if that's the case, then maybe you can explore funding different organizations that have been working really hard, grassroots organizations. I'm not going to name names right now, but I just...thank you for asking that question. But I also just wanted to say one more thing is that I'm really happy to see that two of the four presenters have actually found a productive space because I wasn't always in agreement with some of the work before. So, I'm really happy to see...overall it does our whole community well. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: So, you're saying the way we fund our nonprofits is we...we're kind of...we're not balanced for...we're...we're giving more money to faith-based than nonfaith-based, is that what I'm hearing?

MS. CHASE: I'm sorry that faith-based organizations have been the only ones that have been in the, you know, in the history of our social services work, the ones implementing it, but...yeah. But maybe the other grassroots organizations didn't come knock knocking is my point. So, I think it's on the onus of your department to look at and see who needs help instead of waiting for people to come in distress mode and ask for money. Just look across the board of who you have out there, and make sure it's balanced. I haven't always agreed with the faith-based organizations and the way...the way they go about things. I mean, you know, I...I've said this before in testimonies, yes, my name is Faith, but I actually would like to see, you know, the separation of church and state when we can. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thank you. I...I, you know, I...I assume...we need somebody, you know, and I...I don't think the person who receives the...let's say, for example, A Cup of Cold Water...just for example, if they're not going to...I don't think they're in a...I would drink the water whether it...whatever faith it comes from if I was in that situation. That's all I'm saying. So, thanks so much. Thank you, Chair.

MS. CHASE: Chair, may I reply?

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Vice-Chair Johnson. Any other questions for the testifier? Was that a question for Ms. Chase?

MS. CHASE: I just wanted to say that I...I...I hear where you're...to my Councilmember Johnson. I attended a...a Faith in Food conference last year, and it was fascinating. It was all the different churches who came together, and there was this really important piece that says you can't censor the food. And for us, our Maui population and how hard we fought for the GMO...you know, anti-GMO movement and all that, it was a really, really interesting conversation. So, I'm...I'm hearing you, and we need to find balance on the organizations that do the good work. And the ones that really haven't had the best reporting mechanisms, they...you know, if...you can't just go day...week after week and not making progress, and the population is growing. We ran out of food at Amala a couple weeks ago, we ran out of food. So, there's more people that are...that are needing help. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Chase. Mahalo, Vice-Chair Johnson. And just for clarification, Members, the item that we are discussing was for a water truck, last year's budget for \$60,000...that Project Vision went ahead and...and got that grant. Okay. Vice-Chair Johnson?

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for that reminder. Unfortunately I have to leave the meeting a little early, so I just want to allow you for...or thank you for allowing me to have that time to ask some questions. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, Vice-Chair. Yes, Members, we're going to be losing a couple Members. But it looks like we have one more testifier walking down the aisle.

MR. LAW: Okay. Mr. Chair, this is going to be one of my longer speeches, so don't rebuttal me too much, okay. And Auntie Yuki Lei, your hair looks nice today, so just...that's my Council lady over there. And JC Law from . . . Kula Uka Mahalo Jimbo [sic], is that how you say that? Well, that's...he goes by James. Mahalo, James, for all your hard work. I trust you with my...my ballot. Mr. Chair, your meetings are the most fun, but speaking of wai, the...the kine in the...in the lobby stay broke, and it's been a long time, two years since I drank any water, wai out of the...the kine. So, can you ask Mayor Bissen to like turn it on up there or something? Yeah, the Mayor's Office. And your...I appreciate your...your agenda, using the word houseless because I think even though I know your guys' time is valuable, it probably caught the attention of more people than usual. So, yeah, words...words matter, Mr. Chair, but shame, Shane. I heard you say the white word earlier, H-O-M-E-L-E-S-S, and then I heard...I think it was the previous testifier said that it's spreading to Hāna, now we have a reported case in Hāna of a H-O-M-E-L-E-S-S. Oh...oh, that's you? Okay. So, that's what promotes the mental illness when you start calling people names and telling that they don't have a home. That's kind of...that's hurtful to their psychological. You can say houseless, unsheltered, unhoused, how about this one, Kānaka no more hale. And here's one that I got from Keani Rawlins-Fernandez's meeting the other day, blue tarp people. I think there's an official word, it's one of my very intelligent friends, T (*phonetic*) up at Kula,

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she goes to the...she's...I meet her on the bus, but sans...let me...it's French, so I might get this wrong, sans domicile fixe. S-A-N-S D-O-M-I-C-I-L-E F-I-X-E. Okay. The main point of this is, of course, the water. I didn't realize it was...might have been a question. I didn't know what this was about. A lot of people went off track about the specific issue here, there's money. I...I would...yeah, I would vote for that, Mr. Cook, for the...the money to spend on this. One time I was...I went to the Saint...the...the Church of the Good Shepherd in Wailuku over here. On a Sunday they have a feed the people. And I asked the girl, a wahine, what...what she would need over there. I think she's staying at the farm up there, and I think they call it the farm over...over in the valley over there. The locals know what it's about. She said they need lye and ōpala disposal. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . That's the first time I heard *(audio interference)*. I got to be fair, I'll shut up now. Wai and ōpala removal, so that maybe you guys can get over there with the wai and then right on time with Mister...the next meeting, I believe, is Mr. Cook's, they're going to talk about environmental management, so maybe he can help them out down there. So, yeah, it's ironic that they live right there by the river and they need wai. Okay. Yeah, I'm running out of time here. Let me...so yeah, thankful to the previous testifiers and especially your Staff for changing the...the words. Purify with ka ola wai, the living water . . .*(inaudible)*. . . And thank you, *Akakū*, this has been a public service announcement.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Law, for that reminder. Yes. Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Law? Seeing none.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I can do a final countdown to anyone out there in the BlueJeans universe or in the Chamber, this is your last chance to testify. I'll give a brief countdown. Three...two...one.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Staff. With no objections, I'll now close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . . END PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM WASSP-1(2) . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: And I know we're losing...a couple Members have a 12:00, but if you would allow a couple minutes, did anyone have some pressing questions for our panelists? I know we had some comments. Oh, we have a question from Member Rawlins-Fernandez and Member Yuki Lei Sugimura...oh, and Pro Tem Kama. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Oh. Oh, me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair. Okay. So, what I'm understanding is this item is a status update on one of the budget priorities from last budget, and that is for a truck to deliver the water. I know...I think it was during the pandemic, so probably around 2020 when we allocated funding for a water buffalo, and

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I'm not sure if that container is what serves the place of the water buffalo. Okay. So, I'm just trying to understand. So, we have this as a presentation of the update on that budget priority item, and so the water container was what was funded, but the truck is not funded, even though a grant application was submitted? Or did they get the truck?

CHAIR SINENCI: Darrah?

MS. KAUHANE: Yes, thank you for allowing us to clarify. So, we...we were able to donate one of our trucks that we had from another island and utilize that here. You folks helped to buy the buffalo, as you called it, and to fund the outreach work that goes along with it. So, we...we hope to be able to continue the funding. Now that we have the facilities, we hope to be able to utilize those...continue utilizing those facilities with our case managers and increased case managers, and hopefully to be able to include other wraparound services as we presented that Project Vision can provide.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that response. So, you said that you hope to continue, who would you need assurances from to make that hope a guarantee, and not a hope?

MS. KAUHANE: We're...we're hoping to have this included in the budget for this year so that we can continue the funding of the employees that run the project. So, hoping that you guys will help to clarify that, and also Director Tsuhako.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Does Director Tsuhako have any additional information for our consideration...regarding that?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. The agency did not make a request to the Department for funding for Fiscal Year '24, so I don't believe that there's any request in the Administration's budget for funding of this item ongoing. Additionally, as Mr. Wardlaw discussed earlier, the Department has had some issues with the agency's administrative capacity around this grant. So, we realize that they're a new grantee, but I will tell you that my Staff has spent a lot of time in technical assistance to this grantee to help them learn how to do the grant process, learn how to be good grantees. We've had some struggles. I'll give you an example. The budget language as included in the ordinance clearly stated remote areas. That became an issue. It also stated a requirement that data be collected so that we could actually track the number of people in different remote locations who are using this service. We've had some issues with data being reported in different formats, in different quarters. So, to hear the agency say that they have somebody to do the data is very positive, but I will tell you that if there is not a significant effort put into administering those funds properly, I am not comfortable saying that I would fully endorse refunding of the agency. And certainly, the agency hasn't spoken to me, or to Grants Management about any proposed expansion that they might have in mind. So, maybe we can have...at this point there's no opportunity for me to add it to the budget even if there was a good explanation for it. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Tsuhako. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. So, I'm just curious, it sounds like your primary function was to provide water, and then you did outreach, and now you want expansion, but there's a problem with the Department. What kind of expansion exactly are you looking for, and how much? What...what are you getting now maybe, to let us understand, for nine months, I guess you said, it's two people and the equipment. The truck came from O'ahu, I guess...it sounds like. So, just to maintain this is...what is the dollar amount, and then what are you looking for as you presented, what is expansion? And I want to hear what the Department says about that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Kauhane?

MS. KAUHANE: Thank you. So, we've had a difficult time spending down all of the funding because of the restrictions. We would...to answer your question about the expansion, we would like to include some of our wound care and more in-depth case management into the fold. If we were allowed to include those, we would be able to expend down the...the grant in totality. But we...we have talked about, you know, what else can we offer to these individuals because our ultimate goal is to get them housed and...and to get them off of the streets. So, that's part of the expansion that we would just like to present that we have been offering, but not part of the budget. We...we have had difficulties, and we appreciate your office's patience and understanding as we are, like...like you said, a new grantee in this County. We...we do have grants in...in all the other counties, and have been able to learn, you know, thanks to the grace of each of the offices. As we go from a nonprofit who did, you know, everything for free. To clarify, we are not a faith-based organization at all, but we...we did do everything for free just based off of donations. And just during the pandemic did we start getting into Federal, State, and different County grants. So, to answer the questions before, we do have other grants that support holistic care. This is our first grant towards water specifically. Our outreach workers are always trying to provide whatever services they can, whatever needs are identified to the individuals who are very grateful for this...for this opportunity with this pilot project to be able to specifically focus on the impact that water can make.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: How much was your grant again?

MS. KAUHANE: 60,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: 60,000, and you're having a hard time spending it down; is that correct?

MS. KAUHANE: Due to the...due to the restraints of where we're allowed to serve. As we...as we mentioned here, we're only allowed to go to rural areas two miles away from the nearest water source. You know, there...there are obviously individuals that are located within the bushes, which was the...I think the primary focus of this...of this grant. And we're very grateful. I think, you know, despite the mechanics, the relationships that

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we're able to build with those hard-to-reach individuals, I think that's worth every penny.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. And Department, do you have anything you want to add to that?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. No, I...my...my budget said 62,500, but it's possible that the grant was executed only for 60,000. And I think Ms. Kauhane is accurate in saying that they might not be able to spend the entirety of that because it...it took a long time for us to get the contract executed with the proviso language that Councilmember Sinenci had added to the proviso...I mean to...to the line item grant, so...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, their expansion, they want to add medical services and what is the Departments' concern or feeling about that?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, we...we'd have to sit down with Darrah and Bob and her team to work on some of that, because it does sound like...I'm not sure, but we...we can work that out, but it does sound like that it might be duplicative of the medical outreach program that the County has established utilizing both County funding and the Federal HUD funds of 195,000 that we just received award for. So, we don't want to duplicate, and certainly, the County's program is going to move forward. So, if we can figure out a way to have more coverage and not duplicate, we could certainly entertain it, but we would...we would really need to have those discussions before the Department would be in support of something that might...might be duplicative.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: So, Director, there are funds available should Project Vision technically apply for grant...grant funding, County grant funding available?

MS. TSUHAKE: I don't know, Councilmember, because our...our...our period for reapplying for grants has already passed, it was last fall. And so, all of the agencies who applied during that period and who are considered and made...we made recommendations for funding to are being processed through our Budget Office --

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- right now, so --

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you for that.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- on Friday we'll get the...we'll get the final list on Friday.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. Pro Tem Kama?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you all for being here today. I just wanted to make one comment and ask two questions. First comment, when you do data, don't combine Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. As a Native Hawaiian, I'm looking for Native Hawaiians as defined by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, as well as those with less than 50 percent Hawaiian, and that's only for my own personal numbers that I'd like to know. The second thing is do you have a plan for housing? If your ultimate goal is to ensure that they get housing, what is your plan, as you service them out in the field, to get them from step one to two to three until you ultimately get them into a housing? And the third thing is, who...the word remote, I think that's probably what's causing you some problems. Who gave you that, and who put that into your conversation so that you are only serving remote?

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(raises hand sheepishly)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you for that answer. So, your plan for housing?

MS. KAUHANE: Just to mention your...a note on your first point. We did...we did separate, in our own data, the 53 percent of our specific data for our clients that we've reached through this program, 53 percent of them self-identified as Native Hawaiian. So, we did separate it out that way. Within the point-in-time count, it's a little more difficult to separate that out, and that's something that we are pushing not just with the Bridging the Gap, but also with the Continuum of Care on O'ahu as well. We definitely understand your *(audio interference)*.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, when you do your own outreach, you ask that question, right?

MS. KAUHANE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Because you don't only depend on the point in count [sic].

MS. KAUHANE: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. KAUHANE: We do our own. So, that's where we got the 53 percent that yes, it doesn't coincide with what was presented from the point-in-time count, but that is what they've been able to achieve through their personal surveys. With regards to housing, we...all of us obviously know that affordable housing is a huge issue that I know you folks are addressing every day. We're...we're grateful for the partners that you saw on...on our presentation, some of them being KHAKE, for example, who's been a very loyal partner. And part of what we've been doing is learning how to integrate with each of these partners that you folks have supported for many, many years. We realize that we are generally newcomers into this space in Maui County, and so, we've been trying to humbly learn from all of the other homeless service providers throughout the County so that we can refer, and do so well, and make sure that we've gone through the diligence to ensure that they will qualify for each of those types of programs. We've been utilizing our other services, you know, the...the street medicine, primary care, case management

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so that we can provide and give back to those organizations that we're asking for housing placements. We're also giving back to them by way of providing primary care to their clients that they may have so that we're both benefitting from the program. So, you know, we...we...we bring that to you folks hoping that there will be some additional resources for housing that we can place our individuals in, but we have been trying to be as creative as possible to utilize not only housing solutions here on Maui, but also throughout the State. For example, some of the reentry that we work with for those that have just come out of jail or prison, we've been utilizing our partners Going Home Hawai'i on the Big Island who do have space where people can be housed and receive services. So, we're trying to be creative in that manner. Another way that we've tried to be creative is by hiring from within the community that we serve, and helping them to not only, you know, gain employment that may help them to qualify for housing on their own. So, I hope that answers the question.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. So, are you in communication with other unsheltered agencies that are doing similar type work? And we have a Commission on Healing Solutions for the Houseless. So, are you in connection with and talking story with those people?

MS. KAUHANE: Yes, we are. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I had a question for the Department first, and then also for the presenters. Is there currently...does the County or anybody use like GPS in part of the data recording and locating of...of people who are unsheltered?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Cook. When the community performs the annual point-in-time count, we do try very hard to use GIS technology so that we can visually see the numbers in different places. I think one of our earlier testifiers noted that the point-in-time count is not accurate. The point-in-time count is not meant to represent all of the homeless people at every point in the whole year. It is meant to represent 1 day out of 365, and to look at how many people can...who are encountered in unsheltered conditions, and how many people are actually sheltered. And so, it's...it's...in order to use that data you have to understand it. It's just one --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, I understand.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- point in time. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKE: So, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Chair, may I address?

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CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I've really enjoyed the presentation, I've really enjoyed the testimony. I see...the way my mind works, I see like you folks are a link of the chain, of this whole communication chain and service chain, and the challenge to document and record, I think, possibly using, you know, recording data as far as being able to do it with a smart phone or whatever. The comment that was about taking peoples' pictures and getting permission, that needs to be addressed, but that really affected me. That personalized it to a great degree because normally I see people when I'm driving by on the road wherever, and I'm conscious, and I'll see them. Anyway, the compassion, the empathy, and the desire for care I see is both within the Administration and within your group and other groups, and my hope is that like creating a strong link in the chain that all of the groups can work together. Your outreach seems to be somewhat unique by supplying water and developing trust. That's very, very foundational, and I think it's very...that connection is being recorded, and as far as the location and time and numbers, not necessarily the photographs, could be extremely beneficial to the process because we have a point in time which is very understandable, it isn't...it's...it's...it's recording the data, and that the data that potentially you folks could supplemental and assist with augmenting it. So, anyway, I've enjoyed this. Thank you very much, Chair, for making...bringing this to the table. And I'm cheering everybody on. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Cook. Director Tsuhako?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you, Mr. Cook, for those comments. I will also say to Ms. Kauhane and her colleagues there that part of the way we track homeless data is through the Homeless Management Information System. And if we were to continue to have a grantor and grantee relationship with your agency, that sort of data collection and participation in coordinated entry and those other things that actually compel more collaboration with our existing system of care will be...that...that'll be a goal for...for your agency and the Department to work on together. Because if we don't have that collaboration and use of common data, then we're going to fall short because there's going to be pukas in the safety net, and we...we don't want that. Neither...neither one of us wants that. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Director, for that. Okay.

MS. MARQUEZ: I just wanted to respond to the getting permission. We have had permission from every single one of our clients to take their photos or videos.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo.

MS. MARQUEZ: And to share them. We made that very clear.

MS. KAUHANE: They --

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo.

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MS. KAUHANE: -- many of them were very excited about the opportunity to present today and to share their stories even though they couldn't be here...again, the transportation issues that we alluded to. But they did want to be here in spirit, and to allow us to share their mana'o along with it. I just wanted to...to respond to Director Tsuhako. We are a member of Bridging the Gap, and so we recently been approved access to HMIS. The way that HMIS is used a little differently on the neighbor islands than it is in O'ahu, and so we've been told that utilizing HMIS for the purposes of documenting these water distributions would not be in compliance with how the Continuum of Care for the neighboring islands would...would be utilized. And so I would love to continue that conversation so that we can include, I think this is valuable data, especially when we are able to bring in that case management piece. The wound care and...and the water distribution may not be something that needs to be known by all of the other providers, but I do think it's important if there's a way that we include it. Obviously we're little biased, but we think it's important. So, thank you so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Kauhane. And with that, Members, if there are no objections, the Chair will defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Staff, is there anything else we need to do?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there is nothing else before the Committee.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Krueger. So, Members, mahalo for your great questioning. And mahalo to Ms. Kauhane and her Project Vision team. Mahalo, Director Tsuhako. And to all the testifiers today for coming and sharing your mana'o and your testimony, personal stories. We really appreciate that. And with that...sorry, my apologies for taking you into your lunch hour. We do have a Water and Infrastructure Committee meeting chaired by Member Cook at 1:30 today. So, hopefully we'll see you guys there. With that this concludes the Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee meeting of Monday, March 20th. It is 12:22. Thank you. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 12:22 p.m.

APPROVED:



SHANE M. SINENCI, Chair
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks
Committee

wassp:min:230320:jcm:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 56 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 25th day of April 2023, in Kula, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel Schoenbeck", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel Schoenbeck