

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

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**March 23, 2023**

**Online via BlueJeans  
Council Chamber, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**CONVENE:** 1:32 p.m.

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (In 1:52 P.M.)  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Non-Voting Member

**EXCUSED:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tom Cook

**STAFF:**

James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Leslie Milner, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Ellen McKinley, 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  
Roxanne Morita, 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  
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Michele N. McLean, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Alice Lee  
Angela R. Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Christi Keliikoa, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Krystal Cabiles, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Braedon I. Wilkerson, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani  
Rawlins-Fernandez

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

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  
Denise Fernandez, 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.:** Stephanie Chen, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Kali Arce, Director of Agriculture  
Koa Hewahewa, Deputy Director of Agriculture  
Luana Mahi, Economic Development Director  
Cynthia Lallo, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor  
Maria Ornellas, Grants Management Operations Assistant, Office of the Mayor  
Eva Blumenstein, Planning Program Manager, Department of Water Supply  
Robert Schmidt, Deputy Director of Environmental Management  
Marc Takamori, Director of Transportation  
Kauanoë Batangan, Deputy Director of Transportation

**OTHERS:** JC Law  
Additional attendees (2)

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

---

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha noon [*sic*]. Will the ADEPT Committee come to order. The time is now 1:32 p.m. on the day of 3/23/2023. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you're not in the Council [*sic*], Members, 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. Today we're going to talk about our...introduce our Members today. So,

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

I...it's myself, Gabe Johnson, your Committee Chair. There are no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office. Greeting of the day is selamat sore. So, Committee Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci will be coming in soon. And Committee Member Tom Cook is excused at this point. So, now we're going to move on to Council Chair Alice Lee. Selamat sore to you, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Selamat sore, Chair Johnson. I'm here in my workspace alone, looking forward to your meeting.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you for that, Chair. Next let's move on to Committee Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Aloha, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair, mai Maui nui a Kama. And I believe that at our Molokaʻi District Office, we have no testifiers. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much for that, Councilmember. Let's move on to Councilmember Nohelani Uʻu-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER: UʻU-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. I would like to say what you just said, the daily greeting, but I don't want to butcher it. So, aloha and good afternoon.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Okay. I see Councilmember Sinenci has joined us in the Chambers. That is Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Eh, aloha and selamat pagi. And there are no testifiers, Chair, at the Hāna District Office.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. We have our Non-Voting Committee Members. We have Tasha Kama, who is always welcome, but we also have Councilmember Paltin, who's here on the call. Aloha, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā kākou. Broadcasting live and direct from Historic Lāhainā Town. I have with me Angela Lucero, and Christian Balagso should be back from lunch pretty soon. And we have no testifiers waiting to testify at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much for that information. Okay, let's move on to the Administration. So, today we have with us Director of Agriculture Kali Arce. We have Director of Economic Development Luana Mahi. From the Office of the Mayor, Executive Assistant Cynthia Lallo and Grants Manager Operation Assistant Maria Ornellas. We have Department of Water Supply, Planning Program Manager Eva Blumenstein; Deputy Director of Environmental Management, Robert Schmidt. We have with us today, also, Director of Transportation Marc Takamori, and Deputy Director of Transportation Kauano Batangan. And then from Corporation Counsel, Deputy Corporation Counsel Stephanie Chen. And our Committee Staff today, we have Jocelyn Moniz, Committee Secretary; James Krueger, Senior Committee Analyst; Lesley Milner,

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

Backup Senior Committee Analyst; Ellen McKinley, Backup Legislative Analyst; Richelle Kawasaki, Legislative Attorney; and Lei Dinneen, Assistant Clerk. Today on our agenda, Members, we have a six...we have six informational items with the ADEPT Committee Subject-Matter Jurisdiction, so, we have a lot to cover. We have on our agenda today ADEPT-1(1) Operational and Budgetary Review of the Department of Agriculture; ADEPT-1(2) Operational and Budgetary Review of Workforce Development and Economic Diversity Grants Administered by the Office of Economic Development; ADEPT-1(3) Operational and Budgetary Review of Environmental Grants Administered by the Office of the Mayor; ADEPT-1(4) Operational and Budgetary Review of Watershed Grants Administered by the Department of Water Supply; ADEPT-1(5) Operational and Budgetary Review of the Environmental Protection & Sustainability Division of the Department of Environmental Management; ADEPT-1(6) Operational and Budgetary Review of the Department of Transportation. Members, there's no legislative action before the body today, but I do want to have this discussion and hear from our presenters today before we get into our big budget coming up. So, it's nice to have our...I want to thank all of the Administrators, it's nice to have them come out and give us a little talk beforehand. So, let's begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you are signed in, you are on the list to testify even if you do not request to testify. Please let Staff know in the chat if you are signed on and do not intend to testify. In accordance with the Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting, but cannot be limited to the start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called upon...up on the agenda. When testifiers sign up to testify, they must let the Staff know whether they wish to testify at the beginning of the meeting or before an agenda item, otherwise, Staff will assume the testifier will testify at the beginning of the meeting. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans link or phone number noted on the...today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://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 item on the agenda. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I will 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 you 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 that...if you do not wish to testify, however, you should not...chat should not be used for discussion or comments. 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, or if you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). Thank you all for your cooperation. The Chair will maintain decorum at all times. Any person who behaves in a manner that disrupts, disturbs, or impedes the orderly conduct of any Council meeting, and at the discretion of the presiding officer or majority of present Councilmembers, be ejected or banned from Council meetings, or if participating remotely, muted or dropped from the meeting. Examples of disruptive behavior include heckling, shouting, use of profanity, threatening, or slanderous remarks made to any Member of the Council, Staff, or general

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

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

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

CHAIR JOHNSON: Staff, is there any testifiers for us today?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, we do not currently have anyone signed up to testify.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Well, we do have one from Mr. Law. JC Law is coming down to testify. Feel free, the floor is yours.

MR. LAW: Aloha 'auinalā, Mr. Chair. Aloha kākou, everybody. Mr. Chair, you're...you're a very adept person. The more I see you in person, the more impressed I am by you. And I feel very privileged to be here today. I didn't realize it, but just about every item on this agenda pertains to my life. So, thank you, I'm very interested.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Hold on a minute, Mr. Law. Any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Staff, anymore testifiers for us today?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, we do not currently have any other testifiers.

***. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THE START OF THE MEETING. . .***

**ADEPT-1(1): MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER  
JURISDICTION: OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So, let's proceed to our first agenda then, ADEPT-1(1) Matters Within the Committee's Subject-Matter Jurisdiction: Operational and Budgetary Review of the Department of Agriculture. In accordance with Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee will receive a presentation and discuss matters relating the operations and budget of the Department of Agriculture. I've scheduled this item, and all other presentations today, to prepare for the Fiscal Year 2024 budget session. Today we'll be hearing from the departments and offices within the ADEPT Committee subject-matter jurisdiction regarding their operations and budget during the Committee...or during the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2023. Because of our full agenda today, and to leave time for questions from the Committee, I requested the departments and offices limit their presentations to ten minutes each. Departments and offices here today have also



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

been asked to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to their operations, also...otherwise known as the SWOT analysis. For each agenda item, after the presentation of public testimony, I will open the floor to the questions of Members for one round of two minute per Committee Member, followed by a second round of one minute per Committee Member if needed. I know that's a short time, but it's a lot on our agenda, and we can always take your questions as a Committee and send it to them written. So, please...Members, please try to keep your time down. Because of time constraints, I request that each Member please be mindful of the time and consider noting follow-up questions for me so I may request that they be addressed in writing via Committee correspondence. Director Arce, the floor is yours.

MS. ARCE: Aloha and good afternoon, Committee Chair Johnson, and Councilmembers. Thank you for inviting me to present an update. Next page, please...next slide. Our fresh produce promise relates to the mission of the Department, whose primary purpose and intent is to provide advocacy, and not create additional regulatory barriers on all matters related to agriculture. Next slide, please. What we bring to the table refers to the successes and strengths of the Department that I will reflect on. Next slide. As of March 1st, I have filled six of the seven positions. Together with myself and my Deputy Director, the Department Staff include an Administrative Assistant, a private Secretary, a Grant Coordinator, and a Grant Management Specialist. The second success is the establishment of the Grants Division, who have been working on setting up the processes for grant applications, contract establishment, financial recordkeeping, and preparing for offerings of grant workshops and technical assistance to our stakeholders. They are working closely with the Office of Economic Development Grant Team, who provided a thorough review of the existing agricultural grant contracts, which also include two projects awarded \$100,000 each from the Agriculture Department subsidy for this fiscal year. Those two projects are the Hāna Community Kitchen planning and design, and the locally-sourced feed pilot project to support Molokaʻi cattle industry. The success are the results collected...the success are the results data collected from the listening sessions and surveying of seven communities and agricultural organizations that we conducted in 2022. The results across the County indicate the top three priority areas that we will develop initiatives and programs. These include number one, infrastructure; number two, education and advocacy; and number three, market...marketing and distribution. To continue the surveying our County's...of our County's farm and ranch communities, stakeholders, and partners, we have contracted GUILD Consulting, who will also develop a Five-Year Department Strategic Plan. Next slide, please. The Department heads and Grants Management Specialist possess over close to 100 years of combined experience in agriculture--agriculture education, livestock production, natural resources and conservation, fisheries, marketing, and leadership. The Administrative staff are also highly skilled in their work, and know the County system very well. The Grants Division has extensive experience in their areas, and will receive additional guidance on Federal grant opportunities from our contracted consultant, Strategies 360. The Department Staff credibility were earned as they each progressed in their careers, both within the County and in other agencies, as ground-up program developers for being the first one in their positions. We have on staff the County's first Homeless Coordinator. We also have the first Administrative Assistant

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

who developed the Kamehameha School, Maui Campus Administrative Department; the first Deputy Director for Moloka'i Land Trust; the first leader and program developer of their...Moloka'i's Conservation Department; the first Director of Forestry for Hōkūnui Maui; and the first Project Director for Waihe'e Valley Restoration; and the first Native Hawaiian woman as a Agriculture Extension Agent. For my team, this is not our first rodeo in program and department development. Next slide. What we faced relates to the challenges and weaknesses of the Department. Next slide. Time was the biggest challenge in 2022. We were a Staff of two for the first five months. Not knowing our fate for 2023 put the pressure on us to meet as many objectives within the goals lined out in the Agriculture Program. The next challenge was finding a way to transfer or keep the Agriculture Specialist position that was housed in the Office of Economic Development. The Ag Specialist is the bridge between the Kula Ag Park tenants and on-the-ground support for the County. The position would end on December 31st. The third challenge is quickly learning about and effectively managing the two projects being transitioned from the Office of Economic Development. These are the upper Maui Ag Park, a second phase of the 262-acre Kula Ag Park that will potentially provide 28 leased lots. The other project is the booster pump relocation, which will supply water to this new Upper Maui Ag Park. Next slide. Understanding the County processes presented a learning curve. We are feeling our way forward with the help of our Administrative Staff. I think some of my peers would agree that writing up a position takes knowing the difference between class specs and a job description. Not having the Ag Specialist position to continue the oversight of the Kula Ag Park is another weakness of the Department. The site inspections, lease compliance reporting, vandalism, and having a physical presence in the Kula Ag Park now falls on Department heads. Next slide. Opportunities arose that will help move the Department in the right path to continue steadily meeting the objectives outlined in the goals and objectives of the Agriculture Program. Understanding the dynamics of the Kula Ag Park led to the creation of an Ag Park Manager position, a new County job currently being audited by the Department . . . (inaudible). . . Personnel Service, which may be ready for recruitment in a month. To support this role in providing maintenance and upkeep of the grounds, buildings, and equipment of the Kula Ag Park, a second new position is being created, the Ag Park Maintenance Worker. In the areas of grants, the Department is seeking Federal funding to address the following top three need areas resulting from the listening sessions and surveys. For infrastructure, we have...we are seeking 2.5 million for a sustainable Moloka'i food hub, land acquisition, and capital improvements. For marketing and distribution needs, we are seeking 300,000 for two components of the Lāna'i Food Security System Plan, which are a small farm training, and a market...a farmer's market. Also, we are seeking 75,000 for Maui Food Hub Venison-to-Market...Maui Food Hub Venison-To-Market Plan for education and...sorry, for Maui Food Hub's Venison-to-Market Plan. And for education and advocacy needs, the third priority, we are seeking 100,000 to provide good ag practices, training and certification, and 100,000 to provide organic farm training and certification for our farmers. The transfer of the Office of Economic Development's ag grant funding, as well as an additional request for a Department ag grant subsidy, will allow opportunities for feral animal recovery, feral animal control, school gardens, and youth ag education, ag technology, commercial kitchen appliances, and agriculture career exploration for youth and teachers. Next

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

slide. In closing, I think we have overcome some of the challenges, and I have great confidence that we are steadily increasing the Department's capacity. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Director, for that presentation, really appreciate it.

**. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(1). . .**

CHAIR JOHNSON: We're going to open it up to public testimony. So, if there's anyone wishing to testify, please unmute yourself and identify yourself. Staff, is there anyone wishing to testify on this item?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there is no one indicating that they would wish to testify on this item.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. Members, seeing that there are no more individuals wishing to testify, are there any objections to closing oral testimony for ADEPT-1(1)? Okay, Members, I'll close public testimony at this time.

**. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(1). . .**

CHAIR JOHNSON: So, let's move on to deliberations. Members, I'd like to open the floor for discussion and questions to the Department. As a reminder, each Member will have two minutes, and I will allow an extra round of one minute if anyone needs it. So, please raise your hands, we won't go round robin because it's a smaller Committee today. We can raise your hands if you have any questions. We got Councilmember...oh, let me address Councilmember Sugimura. I apologize --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- you came in a --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- little late there. So, ladies and gentlemen, Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good evening. I mean not good evening, good afternoon. . . .(laughing). . . Can we sing? What...what are we . . .(laughing). . . so Kula Ag Park.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, Kula Ag Park is now under your...it's your kuleana. And through the legislative process with this 300...House Bill 300, there's going to be 10 million in there with a \$10 million match. So, are you ready for...to take on the infrastructure renovations and the booster pump?



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

MS. ARCE: Well, we're...Koa and I, we were meeting with the engineer and...Dan Shupack and Unemori, and we're getting up to par on that. We actually just met, like, two hours ago --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. ARCE: -- and we still need to discuss our...what path we're going to take. We're preparing the best that we can.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Are you going to be ready?

MS. ARCE: Yeah . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: The funds will be...well, when it passes, right. And then it has to --

MS. ARCE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- be released by the Governor. And then our side, you know, we have control over, but I just wondered. Because what has happened in the past, the booster pump money, the 3.5 million, came to the County, and we did nothing.

MS. ARCE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, we weren't ready, and I just wanted to make sure that we are ready, otherwise, no sense accepting this money, or...

MS. ARCE: Right. So, I'm going to give the best attempt to say, yes, we are going to be ready because we've...are...have already made --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. ARCE: -- attempts to try to understand the programming.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Can you keep in touch with me?

MS. ARCE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And the last issue that I just heard about this morning, that there's a problem with the existing Kula Ag Park leases...or the...the farmers, that they didn't know anything about Bill 160. And there is a problem with a lease--I'm on the Kula Ag Park Committee--that we authorized...the Kula Ag Park Committee authorized the Rasmussen *(phonetic)* transfer to Graiger *(phonetic)*...I forgot his last name, and the lease was never completed. And we have done wrong by this, and I just want to say it in public because it was supposed to be handled last year. So, this law was passed...we changed the law, and it's affecting this lease. I'm going to take it to Corp. Counsel . .

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

*.(timer sounds). . . it's a problem, so...*

MS. ARCE: Um-hum. Our Corp. Counsel is --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Who is it?

MS. ARCE: -- is Ms. Stephanie Chen.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm going to talk to her. It's a big problem. As well as to the existing Ag Park, they didn't know anything about it, so whatever that all means. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ARCE: Um-hum.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Anyone else have any questions for Director Arce? Okay. All right. Thank you so much for your presentation. I really appreciate it.

MS. ARCE: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. Okay. So, Members, without any objection, I will defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER** pending further discussion.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Let's move onto the next item then.

**ADEPT-1(2): MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER JURISDICTION: OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR JOHNSON: ADEPT-1(2) Matters Within the Committee's Subject-Matter Jurisdiction: Operational and Budgetary Review of Workforce Development and Economic Diversity Grants Administered by the Office of Economic Development. In accordance with Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee will receive a presentation and discuss matters relating to the Operations and Budget Workforce Development and Economic Diversity grants administered by the Office of Economic Development. And we have with us today Director Mahi. So, we'll let her get set up here in a moment, and she'll give us a presentation. And then after that we'll do public testimony, followed by deliberation. Director Mahi, are you ready? You want...you need a moment?

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

MS. MAHI: I'm ready.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. The floor is yours.

MS. MAHI: Thank you. Thank you for this opportunity. Did everyone get the spreadsheet that we went out yesterday? Okay, great.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yes, it's on Granicus. And Staff, can you remind us the number it is on Granicus? Oh, okay. Thank you. It's the only thing on Granicus. Thank you.

MS. MAHI: Okay, awesome. So, I just wanted...so I prepared this. This is our Workforce Development grants that we have. We don't have any in economic diversification yet. We did send out a press release on March 8th, the deadline for grantees to apply for economic diversification is next Friday, March 31st. We do have three organizations that did contact us that they will be submitting grants for economic diversification. So, I just wanted to go over some of the things that I found in regards to these grants. The first one is Maui Economic Development Maui High School Automotive Program, their very popular program, they've gotten a lot of State awards, they've participated in national competitions. Their program...they have invited other high schools to participate and get training. Unfortunately, we don't have any programs on Moloka'i or Lāna'i through this particular program. The next one is ClimbHI. ClimbHI is actually an organization on O'ahu, but they are doing a shadowing program with 13 pathways of study, and they actually do another one too, for leadership exploration for...to expose and inspire Hawai'i youth to select careers in the Hawai'i visitor industry. And they will have...generally, most of the classes are held online, and they will have various people, organizations, in the tourism and hospitality industry that participates in that. The third item is Maui Economic Development Healthcare Partnering and Career Mentoring. And it is an MEDB-led mentoring program for career awareness and building program. University of Hawai'i, UH Maui College Cooperative Education Program, Juli Patao leads this program at UH. And it's an internship program, approximately funding 45 to 60 student opportunities to explore County of Maui careers and invest in Maui's future. The next one is Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. This is a program in their Hawaiian Trades Academy. And they are providing training for CDL drivers to get their CDL A license, since it was noted that there is a shortage of CDL drivers throughout the State, and this is specifically for Maui County members. And the last one on the list is Hale Makua Health Services with UHMC. And this was to do a digital survey to better understand obstacles, opportunities, and hopes for young adults in Maui County to access the required training and education to pursue careers to continue to live and work on Maui County...or in Maui County. That's all.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Director. At this moment, we're going to do public testimony. I want to thank you for that presentation, appreciate it.

**. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(2). . .**

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

CHAIR JOHNSON: Staff, do we have any folks ready to testify?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there is currently no one signed up to testify on this item.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Members, seeing there's no more individuals wishing to testify, are there any objections to closing oral testimony for ADEPT-1(2)?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

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

**. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(2). . .**

CHAIR JOHNSON: Let's go right into deliberation. Members, I'd like to open the floor for discussion and questions of the office. As a reminder, each Member will have two minutes, and I will allow an extra round of one minute if anyone needs it. So, please raise your hand and I'll begin the first round of questions. Any questions? Questions for Director Mahi. We do have one. Okay. We have two. So, we've got Councilmember U'u-Hodgins, followed by Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER: U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Director. I'm wondering if your grantees have to support any...or submit any annual reports about how they're doing, how they're grants are benefiting our economy? And if so, where can we find these reports?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

MS. MAHI: Okay. Thank you for your question. Yes, they have to turn in quarterly reports, as well as a final report. The spreadsheet that we sent...the reason why I wanted to include this was we wanted you to know when the date of execution happened. So, for example, the first one started in September, so they would have had a quarterly report due to us in December, another one this month. And if you'd like to have copies, we can send those to you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Let's move on to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo for the presentation, Director Mahi. And to, I guess, elaborate a little bit more on your question, Member U'u-Hodgins. So, the grants process is a reimbursement. I spearheaded the amendment of it, maybe about two years ago, so that grantees could receive up to 25 percent of the grant total, the amount requested, so that they can get started. And then after that it's through reimbursement--for all the grants, it's in our Code. And then...yeah. So, in order to get reimbursed, you have to submit the quarterly reports, and then at the end, a final report. I think it was in...at the end of 2019, 2020, the Department of Human Concerns brought on Mr. Jameson (*phonetic*), and...well, I don't

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

know if he was brought on at the time. But he had developed a spreadsheet that did evaluations of the grantees so that they could communicate to us...the Department could communicate to us how well the grantees were performing in providing the deliverables stated in their application, as well as just, you know, submitting their reports timely...so they had different columns. And then I added more columns to it so that we can have a better understanding of how they're performing, and they would have that spreadsheet so that they know how they would be kind of scored or graded so that they can improve their performance. And then if they want to receive more funding, then we could be supportive. But if, you know, the group is not performing well, then perhaps we would, you know, consider not continuing to provide them taxpayer dollars via grants. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Okay. That was not my question, but I will wait for round two, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. All right. We do have...Committee Vice-Chair Sinenci had his hand up. So, Councilmember?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Director Mahi, for your presentation. And also, mahalo for planning on bringing your Staff out to East Maui next week so that you could answer any of our nonprofits' questions, and kind of prepare them for this grant cycle. Normally, we...during the budget process, we like to proviso in our District funds for our nonprofits. Is that a practice? And then we like to also kind of leave some extra ones in case the Department has smaller grants that might apply to East Maui. Is this a practice...a good practice for us to do?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director Mahi.

MS. MAHI: So...thank you. That's a great question. I've been talking to all of the Councilmembers individually, and asking everyone to go ahead and use all of your monies to proviso. By the way, I also wanted to point out that it's also for for-profit, not only nonprofit.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Oh.

MS. MAHI: So, we want to make that...we want to make that known to everyone, that it's also for for-profit companies. We do have other funds that we can use that doesn't have to come--I noticed in the budget that it says we should notify you when we're going to use District funds. So, this way, if you use it all, we don't have to notify you.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, great.

MS. MAHI: We'll use our own money.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, thank you for that.

MS. MAHI: And then you'll have complete control. However, I also wanted to point out one other thing for several of you, and I brought to your attention, that you still have funds



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

left, and we're running out of time. If you have other people, other organizations that need money, we need their grant applications by next Friday in order to make it through the grant process before the end of the fiscal year.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Director, for that update. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. Oh, Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. I just want to express my great appreciation to Luana. I'm really enjoying working with you. You're very accessible, and you did place a call to me early on saying that I had some District funds available, which I hope you got the grants...whatever you need. Not yet?

MS. MAHI: Not yet.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. You said this Friday? Okay. I'll follow up on that. But appreciate your diligence. I can't tell you...I mean you're on it. That's all. Thank you. I will...I will get back to those people, just to see what happened. Thanks.

MS. MAHI: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Councilmember Sugimura. Anyone else? Oh, we do got one from Chair Lee, and...okay, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair Johnson. Aloha, Luana. Thank you for your presentation, and I too, agree with Vice-Chair [sic] Sugimura that your...your performance is very impressive. And not only because you come with a lot of knowledge, but experience as well, you know, being a grantee yourself. But as you go through the process, let us know...please let us know how we can improve any of the ordinances that might be an impediment to you right now. I know Member Rawlins-Fernandez talked about how we improved the system in the last budget, but if there are any more areas to tweak or improve, please don't hesitate to let us know. Thank you.

MS. MAHI: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, do you have any right now? Oh, you do.

MS. MAHI: I do.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can you let us know?

MS. MAHI: Absolute --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What are they?

MS. MAHI: -- absolutely. So, right now, our grantees are restricted to get reimbursed during

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

the execution of the grant period. And sometimes, or in the past, our execution process took four and a half months. And sometimes we couldn't reimburse everyone because they were paying for things, purchasing things outside of the execution. So, if we can put back a performance period that could start July 1st to June 30th, or whatever our Corporation Counsel tells us we can do to get over this because this has affected a lot of grantees. And...and I've spoken to some of you individually that it has affected your specific grantees that (*audio interference*) for.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair Johnson.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Chair Lee, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Okay, Luana, we did talk about that, and we have a draft amendment in process. So, you know, we heard you, and . . .(*timer sounds*). . . we will be working on that. And if you have any other items...you know, other areas that need improvement or new ordinances, please...please don't hesitate to let us know. Thanks.

MS. MAHI: Oh, thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I have a question, and then we'll call on Councilmember Paltin after this one. Okay. Director, does the office assess grantees based on the wages provided to workers? We know that the cost of living is a factor in workforce development in getting people to engage in a new and diverse industry supported by this office. How are you looking to ensure the wages are sufficient to attract talent to the critical work our nonprofits provide?

MS. MAHI: Oh, that's a great question. So, with our grants...in fact, one of them that I looked at this morning, they had three different positions on one line...one...one item...or one line item in the grant. So, I did ask for my Grants Management Specialist to ask them to separate them by specific positions and their salaries. Because they kind of said, we have three people, and this is the total amount that they would be requesting. So, we're going to look and get more information from each of them for that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you for that. It's really important. I know your background is in nonprofits, and you know that the wages are...you know, it's usually passion jobs, right.

MS. MAHI: Right.

CHAIR JOHNSON: So, we want to pay the people appropriately so they have a livable wage. Thank you so much for that. Okay. Let's move on to Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Mahi. I was wondering about the G5882 grant. It says digital survey to better understand obstacles, opportunities, and hopes for young adults in Maui County to access the required training and education to pursue careers to continue living and working on Maui, Moloka'i, or Lāna'i. I just was wondering, are you looking at also maritime industries? We learned

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

yesterday, like, we have basically zero harbor masters, and that's why things are going awry. A lot of the salvage companies, we don't really have on Maui, and so just, you know, make any kine. And, you know, so much of our kids love the ocean environment. Is there pathways for them to be the leaders in that industry? You know, we have, like, the Hōkūle'a, and like that. And so, they're learning stuff about the ocean, but how do we translate that into being able to get those careers? The First Deputy shared with us that, you know, there was interest in a harbor master position, but none of the people met the minimum qualifications. And I would love to see our harbor masters be local folks, you know, not somebody from...coming from so far away trying to run our harbors, you know.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director Mahi.

MS. MAHI: Absolutely. Thank you for that question. Actually, I am also a licensed boat captain with 150-ton license. It's been a long time since I've had to use it. I did commercial fishing, and charter boat fishing. And a long time ago I did apply for a harbor master position at Honokōhau Harbor in Kona, and I didn't get it, it went to somebody else that came from outside. So, I know exactly what you talking about. But our Workforce Development Program just recently had a . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . job fair at UH Maui that included Merriman Program, Coast Guard, Young Brothers, Pasha, they were all there trying to recruit people to do internships and other programs in...for our ocean, for these organizations and businesses that are looking for qualified people.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That's great.

MS. MAHI: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Okay. Members, we're going to go on a second round now. And Councilmember Paltin, if you want to follow up, we can do second round. But we'll go back to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. I guess my first question is regarding the spreadsheet we received. Is there a balance for the Workforce Development grants?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director Mahi.

MS. MAHI: Balance?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: An unencumbered balance.

MS. MAHI: Oh, good question, and we do. So, on the two...third column, award amount.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I just mean that hasn't been awarded.

MS. MAHI: That hasn't been awarded.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I understand --

MS. MAHI: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that --

MS. MAHI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- it's the 25 percent --

MS. MAHI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- has been used and there's --

MS. MAHI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- but in our District funds --

MS. MAHI: Yeah. So, this is the total...right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- like Moloka'i had, like, 12,000 and that --

MS. MAHI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- wasn't line item or...

MS. MAHI: The Workforce Development has all been utilized with these grants that are listed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome.

MS. MAHI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And then I know Moloka'i is not represented in this, but there is a \$200,000 Workforce Development grant that's under the Office of . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Innovations that was a line item to Ho'āhu, and that's for energy-related jobs. One minute? Oh, got it. Okay. I think there was one more question, but that's okay. Oh, did you want to say something, Director?

MS. MAHI: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: You can ask you question, we have some folks who aren't here today, so go ahead, finish it up.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I don't remember what it was anymore. I think that was, like, the main thing . . . *(inaudible)*. . . okay. Go ahead. I will yield. Mahalo, Chair, for --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that flexibility.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Does anyone else have second round questions? Okay. We'll go back to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, I remember . . . *(inaudible)*. . . it's actually a question for Chair Lee. If...I didn't remember to see if that bill that you worked on to address what Director Mahi talked about for performance period. Is that on tomorrow's agenda?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't think so...not yet.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee. Because I think if we don't amend that quickly...the deadline is next week Friday. So, for like the Makahiki Organization...and it's unfortunate because in the past, it was the...our Maui County Code wasn't always interpreted that way, that the grant would need to be executed prior to the performance. And now, for organizations that did perform prior to executing their grant, are unable to secure the funding that was, in some cases, line itemed in the budget. Is there any other wiggle room for this *(audio interference)*?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We had a rough draft --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- we had a rough draft ready. So, very soon it'll be submitted to the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Would that very soon help for this fiscal year, Director Mahi?

MS. MAHI: For the new fiscal year, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, for the organizations for this year, because we weren't able to get to it quick enough, then they won't be able to receive that funding. So, mahalo for that clarification, Director Mahi. And mahalo, Chair Lee, for doing that work. Mahalo, Chair Johnson.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else...final for second round, anyone else? Okay. Members, if there's any...without any objections, the Chair will defer this item.



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION:**    **DEFER** pending further discussion.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I want to thank, Director, for coming out and giving us your presentation. Mahalo so much. Thank you.

**ADEPT-1(3):    MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER  
JURISDICTION: OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY THE  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. The next one is ADEPT-1(3) Matters Within the Committee's Subject-Matter Jurisdiction: Operational and Budgetary Review of Environmental Grants Administered by the Office of the Mayor. Okay. We'll give them a moment to come on down here. In accordance with Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee will receive a presentation and discuss matters relating to the operations and budget of environmental grants administered by the Office of the Mayor. We have with us today Ms. Lallo and Ms. Ornellas. We'll give them just a moment to get set up, and we want to appreciate their time for coming. I know it's a busy season, you know, but this is...it helps us prep. So, thank you for coming, I really appreciate it. So, at this time, if you guys are ready, the floor is yours.

MS. LALLO: Thank you, Chair. It's nice to see everybody this afternoon. I am here again. I am Joshua Cooper (*phonetic*) today from our Innovations and Sustainability Team. He is traveling internationally on behalf of Mayor, and doing some good stuff out there, so I'm going to stand in. And I have, of course, Ms. Maria Ornellas, everybody knows Maria, I think. And she is the one who manages the grants for the Office of Sustainability and Innovation, previously CCRS, yeah. And so, we have a spreadsheet for you today. I'm not sure if...I have to apologize, I'm not sure about the process. But the good news is I know how to use the mic today, but utilizing the system to get you the spreadsheet electronically, not so much. So, anyway, I think Maria submitted that before we came in. Yeah. And so, we have a grant...or I'm sorry, we have a grant spreadsheet for you. It clearly outlines all of the organizations, the brief project statement on that, description, what was asked for, what was previously granted, and then what was suggested to be allocated, what was allocated. So, that information is in front of you, or should be. Do you guys have that? Can you see it? You cannot. Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: If you don't mind me just interrupting real quick, Ms. Lallo. The Staff is going to email this to the Members so that way we can see it, because it wasn't up on Granicus. So, you'll be getting a email here shortly, if you want to continue. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Chair?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Certainly.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, the...on Granicus, it does have one, and then the presentation for Innovation and Sustainability, but it's not hyperlinked so the...for the public.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, if the public sees it, and they're not able to click on it, it's not a problem on their end, and we're...we're addressing the problem on our end.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you for that clarification. And Staff, is it possible that we could get a physical copy printed up, if Members want it. They don't need it, okay. Well, let me just ask before we actually --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Save the trees.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. Save the tree. Does anybody want a hard copy of it? Otherwise, we'll get it through email.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We already got it in the email.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, it's there for you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Done.

CHAIR JOHNSON: So, technology, magical. All right. Thank you, Staff. I'm sorry, Ms. Lallo, please continue.

MS. LALLO: Yes. Thank you so much. Thanks, we appreciate you covering us for there...for us there. Maria actually...so, the information is in front of you. We're happy to go through line by line if that is going to be helpful for you. There's two spreadsheets there. One is the competitive grants, and then, of course, one is the line item grants. And again, happy to go through those, like I said, line by line, or open it to any questions you might have.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I think a general...you know, you have a ten-minute presentation, and then we'll go round robin for questions --

MS. LALLO: Sure.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- or just see if the Members have questions. So, if you want to just do a

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

general overview?

MS. LALLO: Wonderful. And we're going to let Maria jump in here. If you're okay with that, Maria, and...

MS. ORNELLAS: My apologies, Chair, I'm not quite...this is the first time that I'm doing it.

CHAIR JOHNSON: You're doing great.

MS. ORNELLAS: So, aloha, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers. Mahalo for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Environmental Grants managed by Office of the Mayor. So, for Fiscal Year '23, we had about 18 grant proposals, and we got down to 14 awardees, which I hope you have in front of you all the awardees. So, the requests...the total requests was about 1,459,977, and we were working off of a budget of 775,000. So, all these projects...all these proposals that came in were...were great, and we had a difficult time--and I'm talking about the Grants Review Committee--you know, cutting corners here and there. So, it did take a few months, I want to say five months, and delayed the process. Because, you know, going back and forth with follow-up questions, or, you know, asking if they could cut their budget to 50,000 if they could operate their program still and provide the deliverables. So, again, we...out of 14 awardees, it totaled \$724,135. The provisos and line items total about 5,127,740. If you have it in front of you, I can go through each grantee, or if you have questions about a particular awardee?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Ornellas. I think what we'll do is...if you folks are finished, we'll open up public testimony and then we'll go and do some questions from the Members. Are you folks all finished? Okay, great.

***. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(3). . .***

CHAIR JOHNSON: At this time if there's anyone wishing to testify on this item, please unmute yourself and identify yourself. Anyone here? Staff, is there anyone wishing to testify?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there is no one signed up to testify at this point.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Members, seeing there are no more individuals wishing to testify, are there any objections to closing oral testimony for ADEPT-1(3)?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

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

***. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(3). . .***

CHAIR JOHNSON: And let's move...open up the floor for discussion and questions for the

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

office. As a reminder, each Member will have two minutes, and I will allow an extra round of one minute if anyone needs it. Please raise your hand, and we'll begin the first round. Okay. Hold on, I got to get the camera up here. Okay. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, did I see your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Mahalo, Chair. Okay. All right. For these grants...sorry, I missed the second document, and it's sideways. Are these only the environmental grants, or do these also include, like, the energy grants?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Lallo or Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, these are just the environmental grants, but I can touch on the Energy Program. Sorry, I do apologize, it's kind of huge. It's meant for me because of my eyesight, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm specifically looking for Moloka'i's grants. So, there's a grant to Sust'ainable Moloka'i, there's a grant to Ho'āhu Energy Co-op, and I know that there was funding for MISC. I think...I see MISC at the bottom of the second document, but it...I don't see the two--Ho'āhu and Sust'ainable Moloka'i.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's on the next page.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I see it now. Okay. It's on the second page of the second document, there. Okay. And then for the second handout, what is...so I know the first handout, it has...so it looks like the first handout is the...those that have been awarded is the second handout, those that have not been awarded?

MS. ORNELLAS: Member . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: Sorry, Chair. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, those are the line items and provisos. So, the first spreadsheet is the competitive environmental grants. So, that's where you would see Ho'āhu and Sust'ainable Moloka'i.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MS. ORNELLAS: And also the MISC.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And let's see . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . for Sust'ainable Moloka'i, they let me know that they submitted their application months ago, and I know we're going through transition, but do you have a status update on the award?

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: So, this is for Fiscal Year '23. We haven't really reviewed it quite yet because they're in noncompliant status. So, I'm working with Tehani, because this is March, and their performance period ended December 31st for Sust'ainable Moloka'i.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not for --

MS. ORNELLAS: For Fiscal Year '22.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah. That was the...a different program.

MS. ORNELLAS: So, we haven't reviewed the Fiscal Year '23, and I'm working with them to see how we can work the program through with their project, with the refrigeration, the lease, and whatnot. So, Tehani has stepped up to the plate, and I'm working with her.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, just to clarify--mahalo, Chair--you're completing the FY'22 grant and deliverables before awarding FY'23 grant.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Ornellas. And it's nice to see you. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Let's move onto Committee Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And just a follow up, Ms. Ornellas, this...the list is the 2023 list proposed?

MS. ORNELLAS: Yes, Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, okay. So, my question was, do any of these grants require, like, a percentage matching? Or like from other agencies, whether it be State or Federal agencies?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: Thank you, Chair. It's not a requirement, but it's good to leverage so we know that you're actually going out to be more sustainable. So, again, it's not a requirement, but it looks better if you're leveraging other funding.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Anyone else? Oh, I see Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. So, on the...the first spreadsheet that I looked at has Ka'ehu, so that's Ka'ehu Bay. And is it better for a grant...a grant like that, right, it's our property...they're managing our property, to be a line item versus to be a competitive grant? I think it's...it helps them if they're a line item in terms of being able to...right, it is, yeah? We should put them on as a line item. They're servicing our property, you know, open space property, the Ka'ehu Bay. But I also heard from them that they are...that they were told to apply now with OED, and not with the Innovation Office; is that correct?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: Thank you, Chair. Member Sugimura, you are correct. I was in transition, so I was with the CDBG Program for the whole month of April.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. ORNELLAS: So, I had OED take care of the grants. But now I'm back, so it might be the confusion that now I'm back with --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. ORNELLAS: -- Innovation. And I do concur with Ka'ehu Bay, they are our County lands.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. ORNELLAS: And I know Director Maluo-Pearson did --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Great.

MS. ORNELLAS: -- and we have a great relationship. I totally support, you know, their program. So, I did...and she was as confused because she's new to the process. So, I told her, you know, to go do a line item or do the competitive grants, but...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, she should come back to you here, not --

MS. ORNELLAS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- not OED.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yes, to me.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

MS. ORNELLAS: She's aware of it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, as a line item, I think, is better. We try, yeah. Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: It's not then, yeah, right now? Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Any other questions for the first round, Members? Okay. We're going to go to Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Ornellas. I'm looking at the Committee funding recommendations. Assuming green means they get their whole amount, yellow means they get a portion of their amount they requested, and red means they got nothing. And then I see the average score on the side. It seems like some of the average scores are higher than some of the ones that got partial funding, that got zero funding. And I was wondering if you could walk us through the scoring process, like how that translated to either getting no money or partial funding. Or like, for example, Living Pono Project got a 59.2 average score, but they got the full amount, whereas, Nā Koa Manu Conservation had a 67.2 score, but they got zero amount. So, I just was wondering about that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: Thank you, Member Paltin. I'm going to get this mic down pat by the end of the day. So, thank you for that question. So, in regards to Living Pono Project, they came in late with their request to Mayor Victorino. So, although they came out with the lower number than some, it was through the Mayor's directive, if I may, with that amount. I think they...they requested about 100,000. So, this may...the spreadsheet, I do apologize, is incorrect, so we funded out of the --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I was mentioning about the second Living Pono Project. I think the first one, they requested about 100,000 and they got 50,000. The second one . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . they requested 50,000 and they got 50,000.

MS. ORNELLAS: That's the one I'm talking about, Member Paltin, the Save Maui's 'Ōhi'a Trees, so that might be incorrect as well. Originally, I believe, they came in with 100,000 request, and we funded them 50,000. And what was the --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And this is in addition to the watershed grant that they get for Pu'u Kukui.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yeah, I'm not aware of that grant...through the Water Department, I'm assuming, so...

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yeah, that's a different grant. I mean this is a different grant. And the other one...I'm sorry, could you repeat the other one that you had specified?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It was Nā Koa Manu, Maui Forrest Bird Recovery Project.

MS. ORNELLAS: So, the Project Manager for this project is Adam Radford, he was formerly with MISC. He left in May, or April, and went to...oh, no, I'm sorry, that was The Nature Conservancy. So, we thought this was redundant with the kiosk. So, although we thought it was a great project, we decided not to fund it. Again, as I stated earlier, a lot of these were...they were all great projects, but to...with...working with 775,000, you know, we just felt we couldn't fund that one versus the others. So, that was our decision-making process, if that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much for that explanation (*audio interference*) --

CHAIR JOHNSON: If I could have a little bit of a--thank you, Councilmember Paltin. If you allow a little follow up. So, on the scoring of grantees, right, do you measure the impacts of the grants towards reaching the County's environmental goals? Or do you...or is it on, you know, reporting and compliance? Can you kind of speak on that?

MS. ORNELLAS: Chair, so...I'm sorry, what was the first one?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Like, you know, do you measure the scoring on the...on like the County's environmental goals, right, like we want to do 100 percent recycle, or whatever our goal would be. Is that part of the scoring process, or is it just like you guys are filling in your paperwork on time, you're doing a great job? That's the question.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yes, Chair, that is. We look at how their deliverables, and our...like you said, our goals, and as well as if they're a recurring grantee, we look at their --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. ORNELLAS: -- their record, their compliance, and what.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That's good to hear. Thank you. So, the next question is in regards to, what's the status of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan and accompanying contracts executed by the Climate Change Resilience and Sustainability Office of the previous Administration? Is the office seeking any planning...or implementation grants for the CARP and is it...its recommendations? And when can the Council expect a final draft? Are the community meetings and engagement still going on for the plan?

MS. LALLO: Let me jump in here. Thanks, Maria. Thank you for...for the question, Chair. I

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

can tell you that Joshua Cooper, right, onboarded, and he is taking over the focus on CARP. He has been in contact and data mining all of the information about CARP, and what that means, in addition to community engagement. So, I can tell you that it's definitely a priority for the Administration. Yeah. So, we will see that when Joshua Cooper's back.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That's good news. Thank you for answering. All right. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Members, that's all the questions I had for first round. And anybody have second round questions? I see Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. So, for the second handout with all the line item grants, it...on the top of the column header, it says grant award. But do you have information on which grants were awarded, and the contracts executed, and how much of the grant has been encumbered or expended?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: Thank you, Chair. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, are you talking about the line items --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. ORNELLAS: -- in the proviso?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Line item.

MS. ORNELLAS: And so they were...okay. So, they were all executed except Sust'ainable Moloka'i, Ho'āhu Energy Co-op Moloka'i, and the University of Hawai'i MISC.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, the three grants --

MS. ORNELLAS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that I was asking about.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yeah. So, we're working on their compliance for Fiscal Year '22. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . We have to address that before we move on with the Fiscal Year '23.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. So, wait...MISC's grants...grant still hasn't been executed?

MS. ORNELLAS: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Because those are 40 jobs that are on the line if they don't get that grant ASAP.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

MS. ORNELLAS: Yes, we do understand that, and we're working. They have...we've met with the Mayor, University of Hawai'i, and MISC to go over the deficiencies of the program...to address that. And this is a new Administration, transition from the previous, so, to bring them up to speed as well. So, that's what we're doing to address their noncompliance.

MS. LALLO: I might jump in here, if I might, Chair --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. LALLO: -- yeah, in relationship to this. So, certainly, we all can appreciate the need for compliance, right. It is, however...I mean when we have 40 jobs on the line, right, transition isn't a good excuse why people can't feed their families, right, in relationship to those folks that are employed through the MISC program. And so, working with that particular organization to be in compliance is clearly the priority of the Administration in relationship to getting up to speed, that's...I mean certainly we need to do that. But that's...I wouldn't say that that is a barrier, right, the barrier is just the compliance. So, certainly, Maria is working with that group to try and get all their ducks in a row to make sure that they're, you know, meeting the minimum criteria in order to execute, if that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for feeling the urgency of that, that's 40 families that will --

MS. LALLO: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- not have a job if it's not executed as soon as possible. So, mahalo for making that a priority. I guess I will continue to have anxiety until I hear that the grant has been contracted. Mahalo.

MS. LALLO: I might just --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or executed.

MS. LALLO: -- yeah, I might just encourage, you know, all of us, you know, with some wraparound services there to support them to get into compliance, right. So, Councilmember Rawlins [sic], if you have a connection with that group, you know, if you could just encourage them, and support them in whatever way it is that's needed for compliance, right. We've got to check all of those boxes, and then...you know, and then we can get to it.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I'm going to move on.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

CHAIR JOHNSON: We have some other questions. Thank you so much. Committee Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And, yeah, just following up on Member Rawlins-Fernandez's line of questioning. I know we...I did have a discussion with Ms. Ornellas about MISC having some overlap with some of their other grants. Are these the deficiencies that we're talking about?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: Thank you, Member Sinenci. There's couple items, that is one, the overlapping where they're...I want to say every year coming for an extension because they...they're not able to spend down. So, it's like a recurring practice. So, come December, they've still have...they still have monies in there, so they want to ask for an extension for three months and spend down. In the meantime, they have the current grant coming up, and then there...there's that overlap from January to March. So, you can't spend down from January to March because you're busy working to spend down the previous fiscal year. So, then come December . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . again, it's going to reoccur to --

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

MS. ORNELLAS: -- spend down the money.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: I think this might be, maybe, where some of these changes that Chair Lee has been talking about. Because you're right, for...for MISC to receive some of these funds, they also need, like we said, some matching funds from the County to get some of those State funds to help them with their operations. I mean I think we cannot impress enough the importance of addressing our invasive species. Majority of our budget is based on real property taxes, right, that generates a lot of our revenue. So, I mean if invasive species start to...we see this type of damage like we see on the Big Island, it could negatively, you know, affect our...you know, our rating here at the County as far as budget. So, I'm hoping that we can address it soon too. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. Thank you so much. Good points. Okay. Anybody else for second and final round? I have a question. Okay. So, either one of you folks, but basically what I been hearing is some of the nonprofits and folks who have been applying for grants weren't able to reach out and have a meeting with the Administration. And I get it, you know, the transition and all that. But right now, I mean can...you know, how were these awards granted for Fiscal Year 2024, especially if some of these nonprofits are requesting for more funds? You know, how do they...you know, how...usually we have a meeting with them beforehand, and then that happens. But those folks who are just wondering, hopefully from last year, it's going to be same as this year. So, can you speak on that?

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

MS. LALLO: I'll get that. Thank you, Chair, for that...for the question. I can tell you, personally, that I have met with a significant number of nonprofit organizations from across the County. It's been wonderful to hear all of the good work that's happening. So, if you are having a nonprofit...that you have one in mind, please have them reach out directly to me. I am happy to broker that meeting, or have that conversation. I have multiple every week, happy to do it.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. You heard it here first, folks, so, you go...you gotta go chase it. Okay. So, I think right now--oh, thanks. We're going to...I believe...I'm thinking right now we'll take a break before we...well, we'll do the...what we'll do is before we call the next Department, we'll do a break. So, right now...let's see here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have one more burning question, sorry.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, sure. Go ahead. Go for it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's burning really hot. Okay. Ms. Ornellas, I know that, you know, one of the things that you're talking about is grant extensions for MISC. And as the Budget Chair, I did meet with them in past years about things needing to be extended...the grants needing to be extended for, you know, reasons that they fall under UHMC and their processes, and that takes a long time. But also, we granted funding for, like, vehicles so that they can do the work of removing the little fire ants, coqui frogs, and these are all really important to our community. I...we just...in the GREAT Committee, we had talked about a settlement where one of our County vehicles was totaled, and we asked the Deputy Director of the Water Department when can we expect that vehicle to be replaced, and he said, like, three years. And so, you know, it's my understanding that part of the extensions that we granted funding for a vehicle. I mean the County looks at vehicles, and it's like, yeah, we're probably not going to get a vehicle for three years. And so, in the year that we grant funding for vehicles, or things that are backlogged, and it takes some time, it...I think it's like anticipated that it would go beyond the timing of the fiscal year. So, are those considerations that you folks make on the selection committee, or the granteeing [sic] committee?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Ornellas.

MS. ORNELLAS: Thank you, Rawlins...Member Rawlins-Fernandez. You know, with...we do consider that, but I don't think that was the point with MISC. They came in with their request in November, and not...you know, way in January. So, they did need that extension to buy their two vehicles for that. So, I don't see the three year...you know, I know for the County process, it takes a while.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The three years was just an example --

MS. ORNELLAS: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for our Department of Water Supply.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: When we asked about when we would get that truck that was damaged replaced, he told us, like, three years. So, I'm just relating it to something that we had just discussed this week.

MS. ORNELLAS: Yeah. So, with the UH MISC, they went out and just bought vehicles from KarMART, so it wasn't a problem as far as the delay, you know, and the process for purchasing a vehicle.

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

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. I want to thank you folks for taking out time in your busy schedule to come on down here and speak to the Councilmembers, and the community. So, thank you so much once again.

MS. ORNELLAS: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Members, without any objection, I'll defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION:**     **DEFER** pending further discussion.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So, I'm thinking, right now, we are halfway through our agenda. And I'd to take about a ten-minute recess, and look forward to receiving our three remaining presentations when we get back. Okay. So, the time is now 2:49, we will come back at 3:00 p.m. exactly. The Affordable...or, I'm sorry. The ADEPT Committee is now in recess until 3:00 p.m. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:**             2:49 p.m.

**RECONVENE:**       3:01 p.m.

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the ADEPT Committee of 3/23/2023 come back into order from our short recess. Okay. So, the next item...Members, we're just moving on, and I want to thank everybody for keeping their questions concise and allowing the departments to educate us.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

**ADEPT-1(4): MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER  
JURISDICTION: OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW  
OF WATERSHED GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR JOHNSON: ADEPT-1(4) Matters Within the...Matters Within the Committee's Subject-Matter Jurisdiction: Watershed Grants Administered by the Department of Water Supply. In accordance with Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee will receive a presentation and discuss matters relating to the operations and budget of watershed grants administered by the Department of Water Supply. Today we have Ms. Blumenstein, so the floor is yours.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Aloha, Chair, Members. Thanks for having us. First slide, please. Next slide, please. Yeah, we were requested to do a brief overview of the Department's Watershed Protection Grant Program, and who they're granted to, how much has been expended for Fiscal Year '23, status of those grants, any Department successes and challenges related to the Watershed Protection work and grant subsidies, and any opportunities that we have identified for the next fiscal year. Next slide. So, these grant subsidies are water rate funded, right, nothing of this comes out of the General Fund. So, why does Department of Water Supply fund grant subsidies for watershed protection? Well, forested watersheds do recharge groundwater supply, infiltrate rainfall, slow down runoff, prevent and control erosion. So, we have this constant threat of invasive animal and plant species that requires active management of native forested watersheds to maintain our water resources and drinking water supply. Primary threats are ungulates...feral ungulates...pigs, deer, cows as well. And there are multiple invasive weed species that vary through the regions and the eco regions of the island. And the key deliverables these folks are doing is boots on the ground to fence critical watersheds, maintain and keep feral ungulates out of there, maintaining weeds, and this is how we invest in our drinking water supply. Next slide. So, for Fiscal Year '23, our grant program looks like this, we have ten different projects throughout Maui County...not for the Island of Lānaʻi, where we don't have a water system. These are administered through a request for proposal that we issue around July each summer that's advertised on our website. All grantees that meet the criteria are eligible to apply, there has to be some direct or indirect benefits to our customers or future customers, and what resources apply. We go through a grant evaluation process with a Grant Analysis Committee that include members from State DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Housing, and other County agencies. So, we vet each proposal on its own merits, and sometimes the recommended award matches the proposal, and sometimes it's adjusted. So, for Fiscal Year '23, the total awarded...recommended award amount was \$2.865 million. Next slide. So, status for Fiscal Year '23 grants, these are...I can explain the aggregations if you want, but they have been...all but the grantees that are administered by the University of Hawai'i Office of Research Services have been executed, but they are...there is a process from...we're getting grant proposals, the Grant Analysis Committee make the recommendation. Sometimes proposals need revision if they're not matching the original proposal. We send out a notice to each grantee of their preliminary award after Council has approved your budget. We submit the half-executed grant contract to grantees sometime in...between August and October,

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

and there's usually a couple of delays. So, we have most notices of...notice to proceeds sent out before the end of the calendar year, but some of those are later. So, encumbered or contracted to date is...for Fiscal Year '23, is \$1.287 million. Next slide. So, the funded projects are...just have a couple numbers here to...you see the distribution. The...number one, there's the East Maui Watershed Partnership, covers probably the largest area. We have sources in several...or both groundwater sources in aquifers through Ha'ikū and Hāna, as well as surface water resources. The number two there is The Nature Conservancy . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Maui Project, similar area where . . .*(inaudible)*. . . in the Waikamoi Region. That's a resource for surface water for Upcountry. The...three is the Auwahi Forest Reservation Program, that's a smaller, kind of a demo project of how you successfully can convert completely disturbed landscape, invasive grass, to a very varied multistory native forest. Number four is Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership that serves both central system of West Maui where most of our customers are based. And a little west of that, five is The Nature Conservancy's Waiāhole . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Preserve. Six is the Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve. Number seven is the East Moloka'i Watershed Protection Program that's managed by The Nature Conservancy. And then in addition, we have two projects by the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center for . . .*(inaudible)*. . . koa seed, and for research of preventing rapid ohia death of ohia. That's the ten projects. Next slide. Successes to date, we've been funding some of these projects back to 1997, and up to date there's 288,000 acres of critical watershed lands managed on the 38 miles of ungulate fence constructed and maintained, over 100,000 invasive weeds removed, and the Department's water rates have funded \$26 million of that to date. And we do this because we invest in our drinking water source. This is protecting the priority watersheds throughout Maui County that is both groundwater recharge and surface water. We have...we want to ensure that these projects have a reliable stream of funding. There are other funding...we help leverage under...other funding sources for them, but they can vary quite a bit year to year from State and private funders. So, we have now tied the...our investment rates to our operations budget so that if we have a larger budget, there's more funds available for grant funds, so we know that we have sufficient revenue to sustain this program. And over the years, all these projects have really improved...I mean they're all doing an excellent job, and...out in the field, but just in terms as administering grants, making sure that their expenditures are fiscally responsible, they're quite scrutinized. And challenges we and the grantees face is, we have these kind of late notice to proceed contracts. So, year to year their funding overlaps, may be difficult to spend down, so...and so forth. They have...several of them face vacancies for key field staff, and they see increased pressure from deer, primarily, to their...to fences. Next slide. Opportunities for next fiscal year. We have initiated a new platform called AmpliFund to really help streamline both the Department's administration of the grants, and for the grantees too, so kind of automating come of that...that process. We hope by the next fiscal year that we would have even the grant applications, the RFP, on that platform. We want to address the funding overlap through revising the grant contract language for the next fiscal year to address that. We'd like to see increased support to control deer because of this more intense pressure in all areas, pretty much. We're also working closer with Division of Forest and Wildlife, who funds very similar projects, and the same project too. You know, there's ways to



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

sort of make sure that we're making the most efficient use of our funds. So, there's way to divide up the funding between, you know, payroll, equipment, and things like that. Yeah, that's it. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Ms. Blumenstein. Forgot to mention that we have Deputy Director Kimo Landgraf here, so just want to welcome him to--thank you so much. Okay. Members, we're going to do public testimony, and then deliberations.

**. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(4). . .**

CHAIR JOHNSON: So, at this time, if there's anyone wishing to testify on this item, please unmute and identify yourself. Staff, is there anyone wishing to testify on this item?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there's no one that's indicated that they would like to testify on this item. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. Members, seeing there are no more individuals wishing to testify, are there any objections to closing oral testimony for ADEPT-1(4)?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Seeing no objections. I'll now close public testimony for this item.

**. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(4). . .**

CHAIR JOHNSON: Let's move on to our deliberations. Going to open up the floor for discussion and questions to the Department. And as a reminder, each Member will have two minutes, and I will allow one extra round for one minute if anyone needs it. And please raise your hands to begin any of the questions, so...okay. We got Councilmember Paltin. Anyone else? Okay. Councilmember Paltin, go for it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Blumenstein. My question is primarily for Pu'u Kukui Watershed, although I saw Waikamoi had the same kind of issue. The notice to proceed execution was August of 2022, and they just got paid, I think, yesterday. And specifically, the Pu'u Kukui Watershed folks were saying that they had to work, like, a whole quarter without getting paid. So, I just was wondering if you had any explanation for that, or if that can not continue in the future?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Blumenstein.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Chair. Thank you. Mahalo, Councilmember. For Pu'u Kukui, the delay and . . .(inaudible). . . primarily were due to some noncompliance issues for Fiscal Year '22, which have been resolved and wrapped up. So, I think the...all invoiced



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

expenditures that had reports attached to them have been paid out. So, we were able to just...I mean this is a little later than we would like to see. But we also have been very consistent, now, to follow up on all compliance issues for each grantee. So, we appreciate that that's been resolved now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And was the compliance related to overlapping time of money?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Blumenstein.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair. For Pu'u Kukui, there was a justification for equipment purchases, and late reporting to follow invoicing for Fiscal Year '22.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Blumenstein, and Deputy Director. Mahalo for being with us today. The AmpliFund platform, I didn't know it could also do grants. So, that software, the grantee would submit their application and their reports to...or how does that work? Because I know we got that in the Finance Department for ARPA Funds. Okay, go ahead.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Blumenstein.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. Yeah, we actually kind of piloted this before Finance started it, so, we didn't know how well it was going to work. But...and all credit to my staff, Robert DeRobles and Edna Manzano, who actually administered the grants. It was primarily related to relieve the burden on them, a lot of the time consuming going through each invoice, you know, by hand and whatnot. So...so, we started sort of phasing it in. And any new software is going to be a little growing pains, and I think, you know, the grantees felt that. We had a workshop with grantees to make the transition a little smoother. But I think at this point, most folks involved are happy with it. So, it's both the application being submitted on AmpliFund and everything, so from execution on, everything is administered on that platform. The only thing we have not done yet is to have the request for proposal integrated there, so we were going to try that for Fiscal Year '24.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Such pioneers, love it. I guess...I wish I knew that you folks were doing that. I would have asked if the others were looking into...the other departments and divisions looking into using this platform as well for the management of their grants. Unless you have the answer, but --

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: No, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. And then I did have a question for...shoot, what was my question? I'm going to yield because I can't remember the

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

other question I had.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thank you so much. I saw Councilmember Sinenci, and I also saw Councilmember Sugimura's hand up. So, go ahead, Committee Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Ms. Blumenstein, for your presentation. I just had a quick question. Are most of these lands State lands?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Blumenstein.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: The watershed partnerships are, I guess, 54 partners. So there's...you know, the partnerships are a public-private partnership in the full meaning because they're...includes State and Federal lands for both West and East Maui, but the bulk of them are private landowners. So, the work that the projects do benefit...you know, even State lands. Of course, you have DOFAW, DLNR targeting, you know, their...the State-owned lands. But some of the State-owned lands that are either where our groundwater wells are located, or the recharge area for our groundwater wells. So...so, that's why we want to work closely with DOFAW, you know, looking at the funding of lands or projects, that kind of overlapping.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. And then are these lands at a certain elevation level?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Blumenstein.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair. Well, it varies.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: It varies.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: I'll...probably wrong if I say it's 3,000 feet and above, but I mean the critical watersheds that have been identified by DLNR...critical in terms of being the primary recharge areas for water resources, that's the focus areas. So, for West Maui, you know, it varies, if you're looking at kind of a polygon of the critical watershed. But it's the mauka watersheds that are our primary focus because again, that's...for drinking water supply, that's a recharge area, and kind of trying to keep, at least, the incursion or the, you know, influx of invasive weed and ungulates out of those areas.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Right. During the WDUP discussions, we talked about bringing down those elevation below 3,000 elevation. Or is this...or the State implements those standards?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Blumenstein.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you. Chair. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Yeah, thank you for that because it is definitely a need to look at watershed management from a more, you know, holistic perspective, that whole management. But for the Water Department, you know, we encourage that management, but we have to think where its water rates funds go. It has to be some direct or indirect nexus to drinking water. So, it's more challenging to manage the makai lands. You have, you know, fragmented landownership and whatnot. So, we see nonwater rate funds, you know, prioritizing management of those lands, not the...necessarily the Department's grant subsidies.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Mahalo, Chair, for the leeway.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, I just want to say it in public, Leeward Halekakaalā, I hope that next year...Fiscal Year '25, that they will come back because I notice that they're not on the list again for several years. I know it's because of their own internal whatever they need to do. So, I want to put a plug in to my watershed. And I will be talking to them, as I have been, kind of last two years, but hopefully things will get back into order. Any help you may need to do that, let me know because super important, your work. And anything with axis deer, dangerous, you know, and I'm concerned about Halekakaalā . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I mean not Halekakaalā, the watershed, Leeward Halekakaalā, because they're all around Upcountry. So, help is needed. Let me know.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I have a question for the...well, any other Members before I go? Okay. I have a question. So, this is in regards to the...working with the Department of Health, right. So, has the Department considered funding the creation of a watershed-based management plans to be approved by the Department of Health? Would this help draw the additional Federal funding from...for watershed management and engage more community stakeholders and partners? It's my understanding that some of the watershed-based management plans don't cut it for the Department of Health standards. So, they want more and more in-depth, and if we do that, we could...it'll open up more doors for funds.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair, for that question, and good suggestions too. So, we...the Department have actually pursued grant-fund options through Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch called the Well Protection Set Aside Program. And we have funded some of the watershed work in the past through that grant program. We did apply for Fiscal Year '23, and didn't get it. So, for our purposes, there is not an additional need. You know, we...one of the criteria for funding is that there is an existing watershed management plan, so we...you know, or a strategic plan so we know what the long-term goals of the project is, and that it's sustainable. I don't know if the other Department of Health, Clean Water Branch opportunities, and if that requires some other, you know, implement of the watershed management plans. I don't know that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I just...we're just trying to open up the valves of money to flow, no

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

pun intended. All right. Let's go...okay, let's...that's...I love my puns. That's my first round. Does anybody else have any second round questions? We got one from Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I remembered what my question was. Okay. On slide 4, it has the applicant proposal and then the Grant Committee, what I assume was the grant contracted...executed. And then on slide 5, it says encumbered. So, the column that says encumbered, does that mean that that's just what was encumbered in the grant contract? Or has it been expended --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Blumenstein.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that amount?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair. So, that means it's been contracted. So, because of this long...or overlaps...we just closed out Fiscal Year '22 final quarter invoices and reporting. So, there has been barely any expenditures for Fiscal Year '23, even though we're...logistically we're in late Fiscal Year '23. So, no, that just means they're contracted.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Ms. Blumenstein.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. Anyone for a second and final round? Okay. I want to thank the Department. Thank you so much for coming out, and giving us a presentation, and getting us educated before we jump into budget.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. Members, without objection, I will now defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So, deferred.

**ACTION: DEFER** pending further discussion.

**ADEPT-1(5): MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER  
JURISDICTION: OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW  
OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION &**

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

**SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR JOHNSON: So, we'll give a minute to bring up our next folks, which would be ADEPT-1(5) Matters Within the Committee's Subject-Matter Jurisdiction: Operational and Budgetary Review of the Environmental Protection & Sustainability Division of the Department of Environmental Management. So, in accordance with Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee will receive a presentation and discuss matters relating to the operations and budget of the Environmental Protection & Sustainability Division of the Department of Management. We have today with us Deputy Director Schmidt. So, nice to see you, Deputy Director. Thank you for joining us today. Are you ready to proceed?

MR. SCHMIDT: I am. Thank you for having me.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh. The floor is yours. Mahalo.

MR. SCHMIDT: If we could start the presentation? Next slide, please. So, today we're going to go over EP&S, the Environmental Protection Sustainability Division's operation budget status.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I'm sorry, Mr. Schmidt, can you bring the mic just a little closer.

MR. SCHMIDT: Oh, yes. Will do.

CHAIR JOHNSON: It's moveable. Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay. Again, going to go over today the Environmental Protection & Sustainability Division's operation and budget status, three sections. Administrative section actually includes the Environmental Programming Section, the Abandoned Vehicle Section & Metals, and Recycle Section. I'm going to go over the recycle grant subsidy update, and the Division's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. Next slide, please. So, quick rundown the three sections; the Admin and Environmental Programming Section is currently at 64 percent expended, Abandoned Vehicles & Metals Section is at 85 percent, and Recycle Section is at 90 percent. Next slide, please. So, for the combination Admin and Environmental Programming Section, we have future expenses anticipated in the mineral sunscreen ordinance enforcement and Admin rules, and 20,000 in Sustainability Together speaker series that we're beginning this year. Going to have quarterly outreaches...get together for speaking on sustainable issues, and anticipate there...there will be no leftover savings. The remainder will be expended to ongoing operation and Division utilities. Next slide, please. For the Abandoned Vehicles & Metals Section, we're currently 85 percent, but yet to anticipate 108,000 in community metals cleanups, and the remainder in ongoing operations, and no expected savings. Next slide, please. And the Recycle Section, we're currently at 90 percent expectancy...or expendage [sic] rather, and a number of anticipated expenses yet to come. We do have a 300,000 expected savings, and that was based on a timing issue. We anticipated moving some ancillary support buildings for our Central Maui Landfill's



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

Eco Operation. We had to...need to move them, and it turned out we need...our moving them is delayed, and so, that expense won't come until next fiscal year. Next slide, please. And this is a run down to the recycling grant expenses. Currently at 179,000 of the half a million, list the various amounts of expenditures for each of the grants, and anticipate that it'll all get spent. It...just various amounts of expenditures to date. Next slide, please. So, for successes and strengths, our successes, all contracts are within budget. The grant programs is operating successful. We're beginning new green grants, which has been launched and our budget is on track. Challenge and weaknesses, there's been kind of a long procurement process. The grants were encumbered a bit late and, like everyone in County, Corp. Counsel was struggling with few resources. And so, that's part of why we haven't had it expended as fast as we hoped, but we're on track. And opportunities for next year is we're going to continue to expand programs. We're going to try and adjust the procurement timeline, try to get in requests for contracts and whatnot earlier to anticipate, possibly, the longer delays. And we hope to get an Index Code for the Environmental Programming Section instead of having it parked to Admin, just to clean up the budgeting accuracy. Next slide, please. And to further detail successes and strengths, we had some new programs developed. Where Our Recyclables Go, that's education outreach. Sustainably Together, which I spoke to already, the quarterly speaker series. Tow and Scrap, free vehicle towing is now getting added to the Vehicle Assistance Program. We currently have allowed folks to take abandoned vehicles to Hammerhead at no cost, but the towing was up to them, but we're going to add towing to that. And so, that'll actually be the biggest increase you'll see in the next budget request because we expect that program to expand. We've had successful implementation of the enforcement for County ordinances. The single-use plastics, mineral sunscreen, and disposable body board ordinances. Our recycling grants are doing well. The Green Grants Program has started. We've had community cleanups, waste collection, major vehicle dump site cleanups have been conducted, and efficient and effective Hāna, Lānaʻi metals collection events have been conducted. We've had new partnerships and collaboration. And system progress...processes and improvements, we've...we're going to modernize the Abandoned Vehicle System's online verifications. We're actually looking at a new software of that. And we've had major efficiency improvements. We've met with Maui Police Department and really streamlined that process. They've been great to work with. And we've modernized the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . grants process. It's fully online for...from here on out, so, that'll be good. And there's also online trainings available. Next slide, please. So, challenge and weaknesses, like everyone else, we've had staffing issues, hard to hire and retain. Old approach to systems needs updating. The EP&S Staff is going through all of their processes and trying to look for new efficiencies. Like I mentioned, the software there, they're going to be used...utilizing shortly and trying to get everything online. They're going to develop standard operating procedures. And post-COVID workforce issues have actually affected the contracts and the grants. The folks doing the contracts and grants are having a hard time just with their own manpower issues, and that's caused some struggles along the way. Next slide, please. So, for next year's opportunities, continue do what we're doing, but increase collaboration and sustainability, develop resilience hubs and other programs, expand outreach and services to outer folks--the Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, and Hāna--provide zero waste and recycling education...additional education in



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

the schools, continue to improve public relations, improve EP&S processes, as I've mentioned. Building resilient buy in of the environmental stewardship, so public outreach and education. Develop partnerships within the County to achieve better goals, and continue to expand the Environmental Programming Section. Next slide, please. Thank you very much.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Deputy Director Schmidt. I really appreciate the time you guys spent on that presentation slides. Mahalo. Okay. We're going to go to public testimony.

***. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(5). . .***

CHAIR JOHNSON: At this time if there's anyone wishing to testify on this item, please unmute and identify yourself. Staff, do we have anyone wishing to testify?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, No one has indicated that they would like to testify on this item.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Members, seeing there are no more individuals wishing to testify, are there any objections to closing oral testimony for ADEPT-1(5)?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I will now close public testimony.

***. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(5). . .***

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Members, I'd like to open the floor for discussion and questions to the Division. As a reminder, each Member will have two minutes, and I will allow an extra round for one minute if anyone needs it. So, Members, please raise your hands if you have any questions for our...okay. We do have one from U'u-Hodgins. Go ahead, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER: U'U-HODGINS: Aloha, Deputy Director, and thank you so much for being with here with us today. I wanted to say, I appreciate your free towing. Abandoned vehicles are such an eyesore, and they're dangerous, and they turn into fires, and so, thank you very much for that. I was recently at a Ha'ikū Community Association, and they were wondering about their recycling center. And I understand you're, like everybody else, short staffed, but maybe if they could be open one or two days a week, apparently, that'd be very helpful for them. So, I just wanted to pass that message along. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that. Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Me too, I'm thrilled. So, I been talking to Tamara about that for a few years, I guess. And I know it was in the plan. So, how many vehicles per

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

household? Or what is the plan for that?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Deputy Director Schmidt?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: For towing, I'm sorry.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Council Chair. I believe it's two vehicles per year, so...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: All right.

MR. SCHMIDT: So, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, just like towing...oh, I mean just like --

MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- just like . . .*(inaudible)*. . . to Hammerhead.

MR. SCHMIDT: Right, right, right. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Great. And then the other thing I want to say, it's his birthday today.

MR. SCHMIDT: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Happy birthday.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Somebody sing. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Now is their chance to sing, right?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: But happy birthday, and thank you for all you do for us.  
Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Great. Anyone else? Oh, we have Council...Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And happy birthday to Deputy Schmidt. My question

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

was, does the Department have any plans for composting at the Central Landfill?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Deputy Director.

MR. SCHMIDT: We hope to get there. I mean we have...we have hurdles in front of us. We have permitting hurdles. It's something we're moving towards, and I honestly can't tell you at what speed we can attain. But yes, I mean that is our plan to bring that back.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: And then the towing from Hāna as well too?

MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, even from Hāna.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Wow. Okay. That was running me 1,600 to tow.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Wow.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: So...big. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Wonderful. Did I see Chair Lee's hand up, or was I...no? Okay. Anyone else for first round? Okay. We have Councilmember Paltin. Go ahead, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. And happy birthday, Deputy Schmidt. I just was wondering about the Grants Central Station. Is it...it sounds really interesting, as well as the concrete collective, and the glass into sand. What is the Grant Central Station? Like what if you have an old commode and...you know, from when my mother-in-law passed away. I'm sure somebody could use it. Or like how does that work?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Deputy Director.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Chair. I believe I have Cecile Powell as a resource online, Recycling Specialist IV, and I think she'd be more appropriate to answer the details.

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

MS. POWELL: Yes, I'm here. Aloha. I'm trying to unmute my video --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Powell.

MS. POWELL: -- . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Yes, hi.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Did you hear the question? Do you want us to re-ask it?

MS. POWELL: Oh, I heard the question. Aloha, Councilmember Paltin. Share Circle is an online system. It's community organization and network of reuse. If you go to [sharecircle.com](http://sharecircle.com), it will give you a good overview of the program. It's categorized by, I

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

have stuff, I need stuff, or I make stuff. So, even folks who want to start a business and make things out of reusable items throughout the community. It kind of connects the people who have stuff to those who don't.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Cool. And the sand...the Glass to Sand Program, like how much glass --

MS. POWELL: *(Audio interference)*.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- can they convert?

MS. POWELL: They have the capability of potentially receiving and processing up to two tons of recycled glass per day. So, they could...they could potentially, but right now it's just running as a pilot. What they have is they have this natural filtration system . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . with vetiver grass that's supposed to help update the...convert the cesspool system. And the glass filtration portion of that was it would be expensive to haul in. So, what they were thinking about is a local source to utilize our glass, not ship it off to the mainland to be recycled, instead recycle it here on island.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that's separate from the HI-5 glass, it's like vodka or something --

MS. POWELL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- bottles.

MS. POWELL: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Or whatever kind of other glass.

MS. POWELL: Yes. And then ultimately, it could be used for construction, it could be used to fill golf courses, whatnot, fill a culvert, construction. I'm not sure what the nuances of it is, but basically it's glass sand.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Make concrete. Great. Thank you so much for answering that question. Members, we're going to go now into our second round. Does anybody have a second round of questions for the Department? I have a question. Okay. So, I think this is in regards to what Vice-Chair Sinenci mentioned in regards to the permitting hurdles that you were talking about composting. So, is it State permits, is it County permits? What are the permitting hurdles?

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, Department of Health permits are one hurdle, also making sure clarifying land use issues, and we're working through those. I don't see any real hiccups, it's just a sometimes lengthy process.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Is your Division receiving any Federal grants?

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

MR. SCHMIDT: Not to my knowledge.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Is the Division working on a zero-waste action plan?

MR. SCHMIDT: I don't know that EP&S has any direct input to that. Perhaps Cecile knows more than I do.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Ms. Powell.

MS. POWELL: Aloha. Yes. Yes, Chair. We recently...well, we're currently...we're upgrading our integrated solid waste management plan, and there are some zero-waste initiatives in there. But all in all, we have, like, a year...our yearly plan and our daily operations are all zero-waste related. And action plans, I mean it's all about the purview of our daily operations is all pertaining to zero waste.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Wonderful. Thank you, Ms. Powell. And I also want to echo everyone, we're so happy that you folks are working on the abandoned vehicles. We get a lot of calls, and we don't even need the calls, we see it, like it's obvious. So, thank you so much. Okay. So, that...we're at the end of our deliberations. And thank you, once again, for your presentation. And thank you for joining us online, Ms. Powell. Members, without objection, I will now defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER** pending further discussion.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Members, we're moving right along here. And now it's going to be Transportation, so...

**ADEPT-1(6): MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER  
JURISDICTION: OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW  
OF TRANSPORTATION (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Matters Within the Committee's Subject-Matter Jurisdiction: Operational and Budgetary Review of the Department of Transportation. In accordance with Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee will receive a presentation and discuss matters relating to the operations and budget of the Department of Transportation. Today we have Director Takamori, and Deputy Director Batangan. So, we'll wait for them to get set up. And appreciate you folks for joining us today. I know you're super busy. Thank you, gentlemen. You ready? Okay. The floor is yours.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Good afternoon, Committee Chair Johnson, and Committee Members. Thank you for having us today. I'm Marc Takamori, the Director for the Department of Transportation. And with me is Kauanoe Batangan, Deputy Director for the Department. This afternoon we'll be reviewing the Department's operation and

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**March 23, 2023**

---

Fiscal Year '23 budget. *(Audio interference)* next slide. The Department of Transportation responsibilities here are set forth in the Charter that date back to the Department's creation in 2002. So, our responsibilities are the planning and implementation of all modes of transportation in Maui County, including those in the air, and those on water and land; planning and developing an efficient program to facilitate the rapid, safe, and economical movement of people and goods in Maui County; and coordinating Maui County's transportation programs with other County departments, and with agencies of the State and Federal Government. Next slide. So, this is the organizational chart for our Department. We are a relatively small department, currently with only six employees, though we have ten E/Ps allocated. Two positions are currently in active recruitment, and two other positions are going through DPS's review process. We oversee the Maui Bus fixed route, Maui Bus ADA paratransit, Maui Bus commuter, Air Ambulance, human services transportation, and PARK MAUI programs. Additionally, we are administratively tied to the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization, or Maui MPO, which is responsible for Maui's transportation planning. So, little description of each of our programs for the public, is our public transit system provides service in and between various Central, South, West, Upcountry areas. And those are typically the large buses that you see running around Maui on a fixed-time schedule. Our ADA paratransit service is an advanced reservation curb-to-curb service for persons with disabilities who are unable to use the regular fixed-route public transit service. For our commuter service, we provide morning and late afternoon rush-hour service from various residential communities in the Upcountry and Central Maui area, out to West and South Maui with afternoon returns. And those riders are typically employees of our visitor industry. For our human services transportation program, these are transit services that eliminate mobility barriers for low-income and disadvantaged individuals, persons with disabilities living outside of the paratransit service area, seniors, dialysis transportation, and transportation for the youth programs. Our Air Ambulance Program is a grant to the State Department of Health that administers for the Maui County Critical Care Emergency Air Medical Helicopter Service to provide rapid transport to appropriate medical care facilities. And lastly, our PARK MAUI Program is a new parking management program that strives to implement data driven solutions for parking at beach parks, and business districts, and on street throughout our island's most heavily utilized areas. Next slide. So, our Department's budget is broken down into three funding sources; the General Fund, the Highway Fund, and Grant Revenue. So, for our grant...for the General Fund, it covers our Administration Program, the Human Services Transportation Program, Air Ambulance Program, and PARK MAUI Program. The Highway Fund covers the Maui Bus Programs, the fixed route, paratransit, and commuter service, as well as matching funds necessary for the County to secure outside grants. And then our Grant Revenue Funds covers operations, capital equipment, and capital improvement projects for which we are able to secure grants or competitive . . . *(inaudible)* . . . grants. So, just as a high level, the General Funds are primarily from property tax. The Highway Fund is funded by the Motor Vehicle Weight Tax, fuel tax, franchise tax, and public transit fares. And the Grant Revenue is primarily from FTA Funds...or Federal Transit Administration Fund. Next slide. So, with regards to the General Fund, our Administration Program funds our salaries and office admin operations. So, as previously mentioned, we are allocated



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

ten E/Ps, but currently have six employees in the Department with four open positions. We are in active recruitment for two, and the other two are still going through the review process in DPS. Also, part of our operations budget in our Administrative Program includes funds for MEO Bus Replacement Program. And just to note, in the current fiscal year, MEO's grant is to purchase one 25-passenger, two-wheelchair gas bus for Moloka'i for the amount of \$199,000. Next slide. Okay. The General Fund also provides for the Human Services Transportation. Again, it's...that program services senior services transportation, nutrition, adult day care, rural shopping shuttles, and dialysis. And then our General Fund also funds, you know, the State Department of Health that provides the Air Ambulance Service for Maui County and PARKS MAUI [sic]. And so, these are...just to give you an idea of what was adopted in Fiscal Year '22 and what was adopted of Fiscal Year '23 for each of the programs. The PARK MAUI Program primarily started in Fiscal Year '23, that's why there's a allocation for Fiscal Year '23 and not in Fiscal Year '22. Next slide. So, for our Highway Fund, that supports the Maui Bus services, as well as matching funds necessary for the County to secure outside grants. And these grants include bus and bus-related equipment, matching funds for our Federal funds, as well as Maui MPO matching funds. Also included in the Public Transportation Program are our Bus Stop and Maintenance Funds, which includes a contract for shelter pressure washing on a monthly basis, and trash removal three times weekly for each sheltered stop. I did want to provide some insight on...so, at the bottom of the screen, you're going to notice the breakdown of our Maui Bus service contracts. And so, just...in the past several fiscal years, we've received COVID-Relief Funds to supplement the Public Transit Program where less funds were needed from the County's Highway Fund. So, now that these COVID-Relief Funds are no longer available, the Department's request for Fiscal Year '24 will revert to pre-pandemic levels. So, just to give you an idea, Fiscal Year 2020 was funded fully by the Highway Fund. Fiscal Year '23, those were...those are the funds that were allocated by the Highway Fund, and then the rest were supplemented in...using the COVID-Relief Funds. So, the current fiscal year, we subsidized it with the ARPA Funds. So, just wanted to point that out when...or when the Council receives the budget tomorrow. Next slide, please. And then for Grant Revenue...funded by Grant Revenue are funds allocated for the different types of Federal funds expected from the Federal Transit Administration and for the Maui MPO. So, Grant Revenue includes FTA discretionary competitive grants, Congressional discretionary funds, and other transportation grants. You will notice that there are two Grant Revenue funded E/P positions that falls under Transportation, and they are the Maui MPO Executive Director and staff member position. So, as mentioned earlier, they're administratively tied to our Department, and there are no vacancies in either of those two E/Ps. Next slide. And then for our capital improvement projects, in Fiscal Year '23, the Department recently submitted and received approval for a budget amendment for the Transit Hub Project of \$500,000. The Department just received the signed ordinance for it, so, we're working through the process of being able to access it. So, thank you for that. The Department also plans and constructs bus stop shelter improvements at higher ridership stops, and based on community feedback. Improvements are also considered as long as there's adequate right-of-way space to handle the installation of a shelter. The Department also received approval for a budget amendment for the Transportation . . . (inaudible) . . . purchase. And the Department is

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

working with the Administration and EMB (*phonetic*) on a land purchase agreement. For the Parking Benefits District Project, that is to fund smaller improvements at certain parking lot sites as we move forward with the PARK MAUI Program. And next slide. And this is just our contact information for our Department, and we are open to any questions that you may have. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Director, Deputy Director. I really appreciate that presentation, very informative. Thank you for...stop sharing screen. Okay.

**. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(6). . .**

CHAIR JOHNSON: Now, we're going to move into public testimony. All right. At this time if there's anyone wishing to testify on this item, please unmute and identify yourself. We've got JC Law coming down here.

MR. LAW: Hey. Yeah, I'm still here. Thank you, Mr. Takamori. The bus hub thing, I was...I'm pretty sure the bus drivers didn't get the...a lot of the COVID pay is one of the topics, and I know the County's really not supposed to...it's under Roberts...they're Roberts employees. But I just wanted to mention that they are under the...they were taking risks out there driving every day for the thing. And if anybody knows the Roberts management, maybe they can do something for them. But something that is under our control is the bus hub, and I'm hoping that there would be some kind of lounge area where they could, you know, go inside, and take a nap, or close door in the air conditioning, and all that good stuff. So, I just want to put a shout out for the bus drivers.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Law. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you once again for--oh, we do have one from Councilmember Paltin. Come on down, please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I thought you meant for the Department. Sorry, JC, my bad.

MR. LAW: Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry.

MR. LAW: Oh. Well, thank you for the...you didn't have a question? You do?

CHAIR JOHNSON: No, sorry. She had one for the Department. Okay.

MR. LAW: Okay, then.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Law.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

MR. LAW: Well, thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. Okay. Staff, is there anyone else to testify?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there's currently no one else signed up to testify. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Members, if there are no other more...or no more individuals wishing to testify, are there any objections to closing oral testimony right now for ADEPT-1(6)?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

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

***. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ADEPT-1(6). . .***

CHAIR JOHNSON: Let's get into our discussions and questions to the Department. As a reminder, each Member will have two minutes and I'll allow an extra round for one minute if anyone needs them. Please raise your hand, and I'll begin with a first round of questions. And do we have any questions, first round? We do. Okay. We have a few. We got Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director Takamori, Deputy Director Kauanoë Batangan. Okay. So, first question, the most important question, who did your PowerPoint? It's amazing that it looks like the bus design. Keep that person. That's a keeper. See, we were so smart in confirming you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. So, this template was created by Alexa Lasco. She was in our Department previously as our secretary. So, I have to give her props for putting it together for us, and we continue to use it till this day.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So smart. It's beautiful. It matches the bus, it just...poof. Okay. Now, for the budget questions. Okay. So, you know, we talk story with Department of Public Works, and your two departments are fighting over Highway Funds. So, in operations...and I was trying to look this up. Sorry, I don't have my budget details on me right now. Highway Funds, 1.55 million under operations. What are some of those things that that covers?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And could it be covered by General Fund?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So, the 1.55 you're talking about...so 1.5 million in the current...so 1.5 million is currently allocated

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

for the bus and bus-related matching funds, and that's what we use to match Federal funds. So, that's usually used for us to match capital Federal Transit Administration funds. And so, that's important. I'm not familiar if...if certain funds has to be out of Highway Funds, or it has to be out of General Funds for that. And then the other 50,000 that you . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the other 50,000 is MPO matching funds that we participate as the County's share for the MPO. So, the MPO receives 50,000 from the County, 50,000 from the State, and then with that funds, they...then they receive their planning funds from the Federal Government.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director, for that information.

MR. BATANGAN: I heard a timer, but may I add a comment to that too?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, sure. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: *(Audio interference)* to the Chair.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: You can add some more.

MR. BATANGAN: So, we are aware of the tension between our departments and the use of --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Tension is such a strong word.

MR. BATANGAN: -- I guess there is a lot of need for the Highway Funds. The Administration is aware, the Budget Director did meet with both the Directors of Transportation and Public Works. So, the budget that you receive tomorrow will reflect a...yeah, a compromise that was...that was very deliberate from our Budget Director and the Directors of the two departments.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: A little sneak peek. Mahalo, Deputy Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thank you. Okay. Let's move onto Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Very good, I was going to inquire. So, I'm glad you're using it for matching funds, whatever it ends up to be, because we definitely...what your goal and our goal is to increase ridership, right. And so, thank you for that. I will look at the budget. We'll be talking to both of you to find out whatever, as well as Department of Public Works. Our bus hub, we're on schedule?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I know that we were impacted by COVID and delays, so, I was just wondering.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sugimura, for that question. We are expecting the transit hub to be completed by this summer.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: *(Audio interference)*.

MR. TAKAMORI: It's a general statement, but we are...we have been really pushing for it to...we're trying to be very aggressive on ensuring that it will be completed by this summer.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Great. We'll be waiting for our invitations for the celebration.

MR. TAKAMORI: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for your diligence on that. And welcome, Deputy Director. Nice to see you. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thank you, Councilmember. Before I call on Councilmember Paltin, anybody else have a question? Okay, I have some, Director, if you don't mind. Okay. So, in January, it was announced that you folks from...I read about this in *Maui News* that you folks received 62.3 million grant from the Federal Transit funds. Was that all towards your Department? Or was there only some of it? Or can you explain if it was only some, how much did you get? Did you spend it? That kind of...that's my question.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Chair. I believe that that was the total amount that was coming to Hawai'i of Federal funds. So, we were allocated, I think, maybe...I think maybe around 2...little over \$2 million for some micro transit commuter-type buses.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And then has that been spent, or procured, or...

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that. We have not been able to access it. We are still working with FTA on how we plan to draw down those funds.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Please keep us posted. Can't wait to learn more about that. So...okay. Let's move on to...we already asked about the DPW. Now, the next question is, at your confirmation hearing, Director Takamori, you mentioned that there's a collaboration with the Department and MEO for income qualifications for reduced monthly bus passes, right. I understand in FY 2023 Budget, Appendix B, Schedule and Rates and Fees, that Medicare card holders, those with disabilities, seniors, and students 24 and under can qualify for the reduced monthly pass, and that your Department works with MEO to confirm a physician-certified disability. But I don't see it in the budget, and you...and your...that you work with MEO to verify income information, and can you clarify this? And before I...you answer that, I think my intent



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

is to explore the possibility of providing reduced cost monthly and daily passes to those who are able to provide documentation that are...they are income constrained as suggested in the 2021...the bus rates and fee study, which provided recommendations for scenarios giving low-income passes, those earning like 100, 150, and even 200 percent of the Hawai'i poverty guidelines. I know that's a long question, but can you speak on that, Director?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the long question. Sure. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I guess to clarify what...during the confirmation process, I did mention that we are working with MEO on the qualifications for a reduced pass. I think, at the time, when I heard you ask the question, it sort of...I answered saying yes because we do have a reduced pass, but I understand where you're going with...with your request. You're requesting if we have a pass that's for income qualified, which at the time I think it flew past me when I was...you know, during the stressful confirmation. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So...so, yeah, to clarify what I said, I guess at the time I thought I understood that we do have a reduced pass that is for, you know, persons with disabilities that would use the fixed-route system that would qualify for, I guess, a reduced pass. And that's kind of where I was going with my answer. With regards to income verification, that's...yeah, that is different. And we don't have a program, but we...if that is something that you are interested in having us look into further, we can definitely start the discussions with you, as well as with MEO.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That sounds wonderful, Director. Thank you for that. Well, so, that's my question for my first round. And I saw Councilmember Paltin had her hand up, so go ahead, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My question was if we ever did get follow up with the Air Ambulance Programs about the night fueling, if they ever responded, or you reached out and stuff?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you, Member Paltin. We have not heard back from the State Department of Health on that. I do know that there has been quite a few turnover, as well as retirements from...from the people we typically deal with at State Department of Health, as well as from AMR. So, we'll need to follow up again with them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Maybe when you come up for budget we'll have an answer by then.

MR. TAKAMORI: We will get on that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right.



**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Councilmember. I want to call on Councilmember Sinenci for his first time. Sorry, if I skipped you, Councilmember.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: No worries. Good presentation, Director. And welcome, Deputy Director Batangan. Are there any bus lines that are not performing, losing money --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: -- at this time?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sinenci, for that question. Most of our bus routes are subsidized. The farebox recovery doesn't...or the revenues from fares don't cover the...any of the...any of the routes. There are some routes that have a better return over others, so we do have routes that, again, perform well, still subsidized versus you have other routes that are much more subsidized based on ridership. So, typically, routes that do very well are in the more urban area or very dense area, such as South Maui and West Maui, just because it's densely populated on a corridor...so, easy to use, as well as within Central. But areas where you go further into rural Maui, those are...you have less riders on the routes, which is typically...which we typically have a higher amount of subsidy for that route to continue.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo. And then the Kula bus route timetable, does that serve the medical workers up at Kula Hospital?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. And thank you for that question. The Kula route, as long as the...as long as the individuals that do work at Kula are near a bus stop, they could...they could possibly use it because we do have a bus stop outside of Kula Hospital along the highway, I guess, near Thompson Road.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: But the current timetable, they're able to get to work and back afterwards?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

MR. TAKAMORI: I would actually have to look at the schedule to confirm that.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: I don't have the schedule with me right now.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Right. Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, perfect timing. All right. Members, second round of questions for our illustrious Director and Deputy Director. We got one from Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. This is your first time, yeah, so, go ahead and get the full two --

COUNCILMEMBER: U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, but I really don't have a question, but a comment because we were talking stories earlier. So, I just wanted to say thank you for talking to me about hopefully improving the Pā'ia bus stops. I appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Well, I might as well finish up with that one. Oh. Oh, go ahead--real quick then. You had 600,000 in for bus stops. There was one point you told me that the...you gave me a price of how much a bus stop costs, and I was shocked at how expensive it is. So, can you tell me how many bus stops are we going to get out of 600,000?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair. Thank you. So, typically, when we ask for \$600,000 for CIP for Bus Stops and Shelter Program, 200,000 is typically for planning and design, and 400,000 is for construction. I can tell you that our current bus stop shelter manufacturer has been holding their pricing since pre-2011. So, we've been getting a really good deal. So, typically, I would say that we can do four shelters for the 400,000, typically. But with the increased cost of everything nowadays...we recently had a hit . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and run for one of our shelters in Lower Honoapi'ilani Road in Lāhainā. And so, we reached out for cost estimate, and basically they came back saying that they no longer can hold the pricing. And essentially, they...it's like the price of the shelter has doubled. So, we're trying to figure out how to move forward when we have to replace shelters that are damaged in hit and runs.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. That's unfortunate. Thank you for that. Okay. Members, any final question, we...oh, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a quick follow up on the bus route study. I know the...one of the recommendations is to make the route shorter by having the microbuses. I forgot what they're called. Is that what...microbuses? Okay. The B...or no, like...no, not the B. Okay. I'm going right, went wrong. Okay. The smaller buses in the rural areas for on-demand pickup. Are you folks going to do that? Is that...and what's a, like, approximate ETA on implementing that recommendation?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for that question. It's micro transit. Very close, very close. I think other agencies call it different things, so, yeah. Yeah. Yeah, so it works. We'll take it. We've been working with MEO on trying to see . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . what needs to be set up for...for the back inside of micro transit. And once we feel that they're comfortable in ensuring that...once we put the pilot out, you know, trying to do micro transit, we want to ensure that it's going to be successful. So, we've been working with MEO on securing the mobile app that's going to come with the micro

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

transit service. And that would, in turn, also allow paratransit riders to actually track their bus on the mobile app. You know, so it actually will support both micro transit and paratransit. And then once we get to a point where we can do the pilot, then that's when I think we'll hear more in the public...letting them know that it's coming in those very rural locations.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. So, no real ETA then, just keep us in suspense.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Director.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Most likely in the new fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Another sneak peek. Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Well, we did round robin. Anyone else? Chair Lee, do you have any questions? Okay, none? I think everybody had their chance. I want to thank Director and Deputy Director for your time. Excellent presentation. Thank you so much.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. So, looks like we have now the...Members, without any objection, I'll now defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER** pending further discussion.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Now, that takes us to the end of the agenda, but I figure we have a couple minutes here. If anybody has...you know, having learned all of this stuff from all of our departments, learning what their budgets are, does anybody have any questions, comments, concerns before we adjourn the meeting? Committee Vice-Chair Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: To clarify, I mean, are you sending departments questions from Councilmembers?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Certainly. Would you like a question...we could put it in writing for you? Okay. Just wondering. All right. Well, you know, I...for me personally, Members, I feel that every Department came in and said, yeah, there's been some...some, you know, good points and some, you know, struggles, but none of them said, it's been cheaper to run our office...or run our departments. It's been more expensive, it's been harder to fill their slots. Now, I've heard the discussion in the Chamber talking about fiscal responsibility, but if we're being...to the point of losing 40 jobs in MISC, or a bus stop

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

that is needed for our shelter...or houseless and shelterless, anything is...we want to try to improve the services, is going to cost more money. And I think that if ever there was a time to help out the folks right now in our community, well, now's the time. They need good paying jobs, they need to live in a clean environment, they need a healthy economy. So, I think moving forward in this budget, those are the things I'm going to fighting for, is fighting for the folks that need it the most, so...all right. Members, we're now at the end. Staff, do we have anything else before us?

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

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Members, the time is 4:14. The ADEPT Committee of 3/20/23...or 3/23/2023 is adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ADJOURN:** 4:14 p.m.

APPROVED:



---

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

adept:min:230309:jcm:th

Transcribed by: Tricia Higa

**AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 23, 2023**

---

CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 57 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 27th day of April 2023, in Mililani, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tricia Higa", is written over a horizontal line.

Tricia Higa