

# **EFFICIENCY SOLUTIONS AND CIRCULAR SYSTEMS COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**October 7, 2024**

**Online Only via Zoom**

**CONVENE:** 1:35 p.m.

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

**STAFF:**

Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst  
Samantha Tanck, Legislative Analyst  
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney  
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary  
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office

**ADMIN:**

Andrew Nelson, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the  
Corporation Counsel  
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management  
Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor  
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Claudine San Nicolas, Grants Coordinator, Office of the Mayor  
Priya Landgraf, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor

**OTHERS:**

Jasee Law

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*Resource Personnel*

Leonard R. Gouveia, Executive Director, Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i

Glenn Yee, Director of Finance, Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i

Jennifer Chang, Project Administration Manager, Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i

Others (35)

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

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha 'auinalā kākou. 'Elima...kanakolukūmālīma minuke i ka hala o ka hola 'ekahi ma 'ehiku o 'Okakopa i ka makahiki 'elua kaukani iwakāluakūmāhā. E 'olu'olu mai, e ho'omalū ke Kōmike 'Imi Hā'ina a me Nā 'Ōnaehana Poepoe. 'O wau 'o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, ka luna ho'omalū o kēia kōmike. It is...was 1:35 on the 7th of October 2024. Will the Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems Committee please come to order. I'm your Chair, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and there are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office. I ko kākou, eia hope luna ho'omalū 'o Tamara Paltin, aloha nui.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā. Streaming live and direct from Hanaka'ō'ō, celebrating my son's pā'ina lā hānau, making memories at the amenities here at Hanaka'ō'ō. It's a public location and there's many people here, but nobody wants to testify. Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, and aloha lā hānau Nāhiku. Next, we have Committee Member Tom Cook, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning...I mean, good afternoon, Chair. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And that must mean there are no testifiers at the South Maui District Office? *(echoing)*

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: There's no testifiers in the Kihei Office.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Staff muted you, Member Sugimura. You're good. Okay. Next, I see Committee Member Tasha Kama, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair. I am home in my workspace, and I am by myself. Good afternoon, everyone.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Next, we have Committee Member Alice Lee, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha ‘auinalā, Chair. And I’m in my workspace at home all alone. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No testifiers with you there?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, not even Koa.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Mahalo. Next, we have Committee Member Shane Sinenci, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey, aloha ‘auinalā, Chair. Hau‘oli ‘o wau ma ‘ane‘i. ‘A‘ohe mea po‘e me ka mana‘o ma Hāna.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And finally we have Committee Member Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Hello, everybody. I’m so glad that...in the Chambers, and I will look forward to this productive meeting and all these experts here to educate us on what they’re doing with grants. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And we have Non-Voting Member joining us today, Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, everyone. I don’t have--or not I--we don’t have any testifiers at the Pā‘ia District Office either.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And always welcome to join us, Non-Voting Committee Member Gabe Johnson. Okay. From the Administration, we have Managing Director Josiah Nishita in the gallery; Chief of Staff, Cynthia Lallo; Budget Director, Lesley Milner; Grants Coordinator, Claudine San Nicolas; and Executive Assistant, Priya Landgraf on the floor with us joining us in person, mahalo. And online, we have Andrew...Deputy Corporation Counsel Andrew Nelson. And Committee Staff, we have our Legislative Analyst Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst Sam Tanck, Committee Secretary Jennifer Yamashita, Legislative Attorney Carl...Carla Nakata, Assistant Clerk Jean Pokipala, and Assistant Clerk Lei Dinneen.

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**ITEM 6: RESOLUTION 24-155, AUTHORIZING THE COUNCIL CHAIR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have one item on today's agenda, ESCS-6, Resolution 24-155, "AUTHORIZING THE COUNCIL CHAIR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT." In accordance with Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting, but cannot be limited to the start of the meeting. As we only have one item on today's agenda, we will only be taking testimony after the presentation. Members, we have before us a proposed Resolution to Authorize the Council Chair to Issue a Request for Proposals for a Feasibility Study of County Department of Grants Management. Chair Lee, I would like to invite you, as the author and introducer of this Resolution, to speak to the purpose first, and then I will welcome our guests to provide their presentation. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, the proposal is sort of in response to the need for all of us to think of new ways to generate and diversify revenues for our County, especially in light of the disaster in...in Lahaina. So, I know that almost every department has a grants writer, at least one if not more than one. But I believe that it's...due to one reason or another, it's not really coordinated. Every department is not coordinated with another department. They just...they have their own thing for their own selves. But after talking with Lenny Gouveia at length about how well they're doing with the management of grants, they generate well over \$500 million. And, you know, the County of Maui can easily generate 50 to \$100 million a year, rather than sort of the helter-skelter way that we operate now without coordination. And by generating this money on a regular basis, that frees up real property taxes and other revenues for other needs. A lot of the grants that I'm anticipating we would write for would be infrastructure-related, water, sewer, roads, et cetera, and that would free up the money that we use that for now...that we use for those purposes now can be used for other programs and projects in Maui County. And I'm very eager for you folks to learn...I mean, listen to Lenny because he's very informative on the subject, and I'm hoping that you will support--maybe not necessarily a new department or a new division, but even consider outsourcing the coordination and...the setup, and coordination, and continued maintenance of a grants management sector in...connected to the County that we support. But it doesn't have to be necessarily County employees. Which is something like how the UH setup is currently in place, but he can explain that much more clearly than I can. But thank you for the opportunity to give a brief overview. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Council Chair Lee. Okay, and...what was I going to say?...Oh. Chair's intention today is to complete our meeting...adjourn by 3:00 because I know that we do have an event this evening on the West Side. So, in case you were wondering. And we will have about a 10- to 15-minute presentation from our resource person, and then another, probably less than 10-minute presentation from our additional resource persons. So, joining today, I'll invite Leonard Gouveia, so Lenny...wait a minute...Leonard "Lenny" R. Gouveia, Jr., Executive Director, Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i. Mr. Gouveia will be sharing a presentation with us, and then we'll hear remarks on the Resolution from the Office of the Mayor personnel. Mr. Gouveia joined the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i as Executive Director in July 2020. Prior to heading RCUH, he dedicated more than 18 years to the University of Hawai'i in various roles, including Director of the UH Office of Research Services and Director of the UH Office of Research Compliance. He established the University's first Office of Export Controls, and also assumed the role of UH Facility Security Officer. He took a brief break at UH to work at the Hawai'i Space Flight Laboratory, where he gained valuable experience managing a complex \$40-plus million project with unique administrative, contractual, and legal issues. Prior to his University career, Mr. Gouveia was a practicing attorney. If there are no objections, I would like to designate Mr. Gouveia, as well as his support staff; Jennifer Chang, who is Manager of the Program Administration; Glenn Yee, who is the Finance Director; and the Mayor's Office personnel as resource persons in accordance with Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council. Are there any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Mahalo. Okay. So, we will receive presentations and comments from the resource personnel in this order: Mr. Gouveia, Managing Director Nishita, Ms. Lallo, Budget Director Milner, Ms. San Nicolas, and finally, Ms. Landgraf. Okay. So, we'll start with Mr. Gouveia. Aloha, Mr. Gouveia. If you would like to unmute your video at this time, and you may--I see you, and you may proceed with your presentation. Mahalo.

MR. GOUVEIA: Hey, aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, and Vice-Chair Paltin, and other Members of the Council. Thank you for having me today. I really appreciate the time to give you this introduction to RCUH. I spent time with the University of Hawai'i for many years, and I am very familiar with the processes of contracts and awards. My first role with the University was in the Office of Research Services to establish the contracts department when there were only a few people, probably like four people, in the contracts section for the entire State of Hawai'i, and that has grown significantly under VP Syrmos. So, you know, a lot has happened and a lot of good things, but there is so much more work that we can do. I did come to RCUH in 2020 during COVID--a couple of people retired and

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took over two important roles and functions for RCUH, and I felt that RCUH was extremely important for the University and the State to continue moving down the path that we need to move. First thing we did was prepare an outline and an introduction to RCUH, it's on our website, it's very long. There's hyperlinks and a whole bunch of information in there that goes all the way back to 1965, when RCUH was initially created. I encourage you to look at that if you have time. For today's purposes, we made an outline based on what we thought would be, you know, shortened for your purposes and just give you an idea of, you know, what we do and what we're capable of doing so that you can take that into your consideration. So, I'm going to share my screen right now. And here we go. So --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect.

MR. GOUVEIA: -- this is the shortened version. Everybody can see it?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Mahalo.

MR. GOUVEIA: Okay, great. So, our presentation outline is about RCUH and the different project types we have. There's a focus on direct projects here because I think that that's probably what's most in line with what you folks are looking at. So, I focused on that and how that process works with the direct project fees and any questions related to that. However, I want to caveat that with the fact that there's a lot of other mechanisms that can be utilized, and I want you folks to at least know about that. So, about RCUH, a brief background. We were created in 1965 by the State Legislature as a public instrumentality that's attached to UH for administrative purposes. We provide the services to hire personnel and procure goods and services on behalf of clients, primarily UH. While 95 percent of our work is UH, we also do work for State agency and private not-for-profits, and that's the direct projects that we're talking about. The mission is to support and enhance research development and training in Hawai'i with a focus on the University of Hawai'i. Like I said, 95 percent of the work roughly is for UH. Our vision is Hawai'i Research Development and Training flourish and energize the prosperous state economy. So, what is our purpose and function? Years ago, all the way back in 1965, it was determined way back then, believe it or not, that...I guess there was too much red tape with government, and they wanted RCUH to run...help UH run more like a business, to establish and help hire personnel, and procure goods and services in a quick manner. However, the state laws, which, you know, most people are required to follow...so basically what they did is they made some exceptions to certain State laws, and on this page, you can see the laws that are cited. The most important thing I want to note here is that, you know, we still do follow the laws to the best of our ability despite these exceptions, but we do it to the greatest extent possible. For example, procurement. If we have a research project that comes in, and we need to hire someone or purchase...you know, procure something within the next few days because the project requires it, we wouldn't go through the lengthy process that's currently

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with the State. We would use our business judgment of our people, and evaluate the situation, and make a decision that's in the best interest of the research project to make it move forward. And again, that doesn't happen often that we have to push things quickly, but it does happen, but it's not a daily occurrence, and we certainly don't abuse that. And especially with me being here, I take that very seriously, and we do look at these things. I spend a lot of my time with my contracts and procurement people, looking at things to make sure that we're, you know, doing what's in the best interests of the state. Because the last thing I want is one, for us to look bad, but more importantly, I look at the University of Hawai'i and RCUH and the State of Hawai'i all as one team. I don't...I don't like to differentiate between...between the different groups, but I know that there's a difference. But I still do look at us as one 'ohana, and we're all in it together, and we got to do it the right way. So, that's...that is one point I want to make is, we do have those abilities, but it isn't used often, and it's used to the best of our abilities to keep it as fair as possible. So, our operations and services. Let's see, did I miss a slide?...no, okay. Our operations and services. We basically have three groups we have a finance group, we have a human resources group, and a corporate services. The big issue here is the finance. We...the University brings a whole bunch of money in through the Office of Research Services, and then we process portions of that funding, and I'll get into the details about that a little later--but our human resources, the difference between us and UH is we actually process all of our employee benefits, and payroll, and recruitment. So, we cut checks and everything to all of the employees who we support for the research projects that are primarily UH again, and then, of course, the direct projects. That's different from the state because UH employees, that's processed by the State, not by UH. And the corporate services helps us handle all the board matters, communications, and tons of work that we need to get done to make us operate efficiently and in an excellent manner. So, our project portfolio--this is where I get into the details--the numbers fluctuate, but we service approximately 3,800 active research and training projects, and we process more than 250 million in annual expenditures for research on...researchers on average. The last few years, it's been more like 325 million. UH is in the 500 to 600 million range recently, and of course, when those numbers go up, we...our numbers go up because it's to procure and do the work to support those projects. We employ approximately 2,500 individuals in a wide range of fields. And the majority of employees are located throughout the State of Hawai'i, but there are others in the continental U.S. and other countries. On this next slide, we have a breakdown of the counties and how much projects there are in each, how many employees, and the volume of business. So, you can see that in Maui County, as of this date, we had 154 projects with 317 employees, and almost 27 million volume of business. And the volume of businesses, amount of expenditures that we process, it's not how much money we make, that in the past people have said, wow, RCUH made \$27 million from Maui. No, we didn't make that. That's what we processed. In a nutshell, our budget each year is somewhere between 6 to 10 million dollars, and we have our own board, and we're...we answer to a

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couple of board members who are part of the RCUH...I'm sorry, the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. So, yeah, we don't really make money. We break even. We're here to break even, and we charge the least amount that we can to get the job done. So, I want to go...an overview of the RCUH project types. There's primarily four project types that we have. The three in the yellow, any of these options are basically worked through the UH system, that's a UH extramural projects, intramural projects, and that's our RCUH and revolving accounts, so self-sustaining and income-generating projects. Those are three options through the UH side, and then, of course, the direct projects. So, these three yellow boxes represent the 95 percent work that I've mentioned. And what governs those types of agreements is an internal agreement that we have between UH and RCUH. And then the last box, which is the direct project box, those are projects that are assigned to us from non-UH organizations, including Federal and State agencies, and other non-for-profit organizations. A lot of it is with the Government...the State of Hawai'i. So, I'll focus on the direct projects going forward, but I do want to mention that I've been in touch with Chancellor Hokoana on this presentation, as well as the options. And, you know, we do work very closely with the University of Hawai'i on all of these projects that we do. And there could be situations where you folks utilize the University of Hawai'i experts to run projects through, depending on the purpose of the funding and the color of the funding. So, I didn't want to limit you folks as far as what the options are, and I wanted you folks to understand the many options that exist out there. And, you know, we looked at a lot of these projects on a case-by-case basis, and there's a detailed evaluation of these things to determine what's appropriate, what's not appropriate. And we are willing, at the end of the day, regardless of what happens even with this, we want to help the University and our direct projects and the State to come to the table, and evaluate things, and find out whether or not we're the appropriate entity to assist, or not appropriate, and if we're not appropriate, what is the next best entity to assist with us. Again, keeping in mind that our intent is to operate as one team with the entire State of Hawai'i to help whoever needs help. So, I'm going to go to the next slide, which is the direct projects. Under the direct projects, we have a master agreement which governs that. Like I said, the internal agreement with UH and RCUH governs those projects that we do with the University of Hawai'i. But the master agreement is what we use to govern those agreements, excluding the University of Hawai'i. And this establishes the guidelines that State agencies must follow in order for them to seek RCUH services, and here are some of the criteria projects that we list here. I won't read each one, but those are the elements that we must follow. On the next two slides, we have a flow chart of the grant awards for State direct projects, which is what we just discussed, and then the next one is on the nonstate-direct projects. I won't go through that in detail, but this is the detailed process that we follow. So, it is something that we take seriously and we evaluate fully. So, let's go to the next slide, which is the direct project request. So, how do...if it's determined that a direct project is the correct route to go, what do we do? We have a detailed project request, and that request has all of these bullet points, which require us



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to obtain the information on that, to do the proper evaluation to determine what's the right way to do these things is. And the next thing is for us to...once we meet all of these, and we have determined what they are, and it's appropriate, we look at a...the next slide, which is the direct project master agreement. And that's basically like a MOU or, you know, memorandum of understanding, as far as what we're going to do, what services are we going to provide, what's the responsibilities of the parties, the performance period compensation. And then insurance requirements and indemnifications. That's been something that's come up more recently. And we evaluate...we may or may not need those two items in the agreement, but if necessary an additional insurance is required, we would make that suggestion and...you know, there are a lot of projects at the University of Hawai'i that we get additional insurance, based on the liability and issues. Of course indemnifications, we're all State agencies, so we would hope that we wouldn't have to try and indemnify each other. But that issue does come up sometimes, and we would have to deal with that accordingly. So, how much does all of this cost? So, the next slide is our direct project fees. It's really simple, to be honest. The direct projects for the State and private projects that we do is between 3.1 percent to 5 percent. Direct projects with the State have the indirect cost rate of 3.1 percent. That amount changes, not much, we're talking very little...like 2.9 to 3.2 percent, something like that...over the years. But whatever we are charging the University of Hawai'i, that's basically what we charge the State of Hawai'i. It's the same...because it's based on the same formula and basis for why we get that, and that's with the Federal Government primarily. The 5 percent is usually used with nonstate entities, and it usually entails a little more work that's above and beyond what we're used to doing with the University. So, the next slide that I have is more specifically for you folks, and these are just some of the possible issues to consider for this Committee, and whether or not any of these need to be addressed. Some may or may not need to be addressed, but I'm sure you folks have already thought about this. You know, what exactly do you folks desire? What are your needs? Is there a fit within the RCUH mission? And again, if not, we can still evaluate with you folks and help determine, you know, where it would be more appropriate. Funding source is important, and whether or not this conflicts with, you know, any of the County procurement process, or civil service process, and then regulatory approvals. That's all that I have for you folks. Again, we do have more online if you want to get into the weeds on the details of the amounts that we process and everything. But I think we gave you the key page with what you folks have seen. I did also want to mention that, you know, I tried to look at some of the examples of other projects that we've done on the direct project route with Maui. And, you know, we've done some with Hawai'i County, Maui...I think the most recent one that I found for County of Maui involved a grant agreement for West Maui Mountains Water Shed Partnership. And there's another example of one with Big Island in which, we did Federal funds were given to them and processed through us to improve Big Island drug court intervention regarding research and engagement of methamphetamine offenders. So, that's just to show you the gamut of what

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Federal research and what activities are done is kind of broad. So, I open this up to any questions. I know that's flying through this stuff, but I know you folks don't have a lot of time. But I wanted you folks to at least understand the basis of who we are and what we do.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Gouveia. Okay. And then--we can stop the screen share--and then next, I'd like to invite Managing Director Josiah Nishita. And while the item is the Resolution for an RFP to do a feasibility study for a new County Department of Grants Management, related to all of that are other options to consider, not just Department. So, mahalo, Managing Director for being with us.

MR. NISHITA: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Committee, for allowing us to be here today. And thank you to Council Chair Lee, too, for kind of initiating the discussion and bringing this forward so we can talk about this more. The...well, first thing I wanted to mention is just because it's so relevant, we had a discussion today among the departments about the bilingual government provision, and I just want to give credit to the Committee, Committee Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. I'm sure Committee Staff and other OCS Staff had played a big part in it, but not just talking the talk, but walking the walk as well. And so, I think there's a lot of things we could learn from you folks in helping to implement some of these measures. The...and apologies, I'm not going to be able to be here through the whole Committee discussion this morning. But, you know, one of the things I wanted to stress to the Committee is, you know, we have talked with a lot of other partners, Federal agencies, our congressional offices, and one of the things that, you know, they did mention as, you know, in terms of modeling, like different partners that we could learn from or who do it well. UH is a common entity that is identified there. So, I think for the Committee's benefit, for whatever it's worth, I guess I would give credence to...and thank you, Committee Chair, for inviting University of Hawai'i to the meeting to talk about maybe some of the things that they do, and some of the things that they've learned along the way. Because at least in the State of Hawai'i, they have been identified as a good partner in seeking out Federal funding assistance and being able to manage that. So, I think there's a lot of things that we can learn from them. And obviously, always we want to be able to do better, strive for better with all our departments. We have had a number of success throughout the years, including this fiscal year, in seeking out funding. But I think some of the things we'll talk about here today is ways to improve that, and to be able to access additional sources of funding. You know, I did want to give some thanks, too, to partners who have helped us thus far. And I won't be able to name everybody, but, you know, UH is one of them. Hawai'i Community Foundation has been a really good partner. Ulupono Initiative, and many others have helped us along the way seeking Federal funding assistance. And, you know, as Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez mentioned, there can be, you know, a variety of ways in which we accomplish this, and thank you to Council Chair Lee for, you know, acknowledging that the Resolution is,

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you know, one way in which maybe that could be viewed at. And then there's other ways too that the Committee can talk about, which could include outsourcing assistance, it could include, you know, creating a division within one of the departments or, you know, centralizing, decentralizing services and things like that. So, looking forward to a robust discussion today on the Committee's feelings in those manners. And, you know, the last thing I just wanted to clarify, I think, just to make sure everybody is on the same page, as we talk about grants management, and I think what Council Chair Lee is kind of getting at in regards to the Resolution is in relation to seeking out funding, not necessarily on the grant management...grants management piece where we're giving out County funding. So, I think for the discussion here today, we're looking at, you know, identifying new sources of revenue, and how we can accomplish receiving that, and then managing it properly so that we're a good steward, and open ourselves up to future funding opportunities as well. I'm leaving you with the A-Team here today. These ladies are...have been working on a lot of these issues for some time. The discussion is coming a little quicker, I think, than, you know, ultimately, we'd have everything together and prepared for you for. But, you know, we'll do our best to elaborate on some of the things that are already undergoing and, you know, being planned for, and then looking forward to receiving a lot of feedback on how we can do things better. So, thank you very much, Chair, and thank you, Committee, for the time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo nui for making the time, Managing Director. Okay. Next, we have Chief of Staff Lallo...opening remarks?

MS. LALLO: I don't see the green light. Oh, there. Good afternoon, Chair, and Council Chair Lee, and the Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems Committee. That's a mouthful. We're honored to be here. We're clearly excited, as four of us are here to have this conversation about grants. We have been looking, in the Mayor's Office, at the grants system and infrastructure within the County since we came on...right?...two years ago, and taking a look at that, and putting in the budget asking for two positions, settling on one as far as the grants coordinator goes. Because it's clear that...as Chair Lee mentioned, that it's a little bit of a garage sale across all of the departments, and what would it look like if we pulled a lei string through all of those pieces, and provided some coordination and a consistency amongst the different departments. So, we have been talking about that. Priya has done an amazing job in researching all of the departments, and what each department has as far as grant writers go. We all know that it's not just about writing grants, right? But first, you have to research it, then you have to write for it and coordinate that effort. And then, oh, my goodness, when you get it, you have to manage it, and you have to make sure it's not going to cost you more to manage than what the grant was. It's super important, right? And then, of course, reporting, following up and following through, and doing what we're saying we're going to do...not only with the grantor, but also with all of the partners that make up that project for that grant. So, it's very complex. So, I

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love that there are many partners that we can rely on to do those pieces. It doesn't just have to be within the County, so that's wonderful. So, Priya has done an amazing job, and certainly...Claudine came on as the grant coordinator, and is beginning to try to coordinate that. It is a big...as we'll see during the discussion, it is a big system, lots of pieces and parts. And everybody does it a little bit differently, and everybody has an opinion about it. So, I'm excited to hear where all of you sit, where this Committee sits on this. And then, of course, we have Lesley, Ms. Milner, who is...has a wonderful history of grant making, grant writing, grant managing, and coordinating all of those pieces, in addition to all her other qualities that she brings to the table on this. So, certainly excited for them to offer up what...the discussions that we've had at the Mayor's Office, but so excited to come together. And we'll let Lesley, I think, yeah?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief of Staff Lallo. Budget Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha 'auinalā. The discussions we've been having right now...you sent some questions to the Managing Director, so I've kind of got a list of answers to that. The discussion we've been having right now I would call a hybrid model. So, the departments would retain their grant writing staff, but we would create, within the Department of Management, a grant support team that would help to research opportunities, that would be familiar with Federal Regulations like 2 CFR 200, that would be familiar with State Regulations over receiving those funds. They would help the departments meet the reporting requirements. They would help with grant submission through grants.gov and other platforms, and really, just be a support resource for the departments. But obviously, that subject-matter expertise resides in the departments, and so we want to make sure they keep their grant staff to help to oversee what we hope to be many projects in the future. We are talking about putting it in the Department of Management, we think it's very important that these positions be civil service to maintain consistency and continuity from Administration to Administration, from Council to Council. We didn't want it to be a situation where these were appointed positions, and you'd have to retrain the team every four years. So, that's why we're looking at civil service positions for those. We haven't done a deep, deep dive into the code yet, but because we're looking at creating a division, this would not necessitate a Charter Amendment, don't believe it would necessitate a Code Amendment...perhaps some minor updates here and there, but nothing major. I think it would mostly be accomplished through the Budget Ordinance, the creation of this team. And really, I think, as Cynthia said, what we're here today to do is to get your feedback on the conversations we've been having as presented so far. If you have other ideas you think we should pursue, other avenues, other experts you feel we should reach out to, we're here today to listen to your expertise as well. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Ms. San Nicolas, if you'd like to provide opening remarks? You don't have to.

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MS. SAN NICOLAS: Thank you. I think they've said it all. I'm just here to maybe answer questions. I do want to say that there are departments that you probably know don't have grant writers. They're actually working on it. So, Department of Environmental Management, I saw, submitted their report. Director Agawa mentions in that report that he doesn't have a grant specialist right now. So, the last six months, I've been their grant specialist. So, where that...that's what a grant team would do, is in projects that they don't have a grant specialist, we would assist them with that. Department of Water Supply also submitted a report to you, and you can see that they actually have a consultant. But even with the consultant, I've assisted with the actual submission. So, that's what a grant team would do. I think that's all I have to add to that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Ms. Landgraf?

MS. LANDGRAF: No remarks, but happy to answer any questions you all may have. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. Mahalo. Okay, that concludes presentations and open remarks, and we'll now open up to public testimony. There aren't any testifiers on the list, and I don't see anyone heading to the podium to testify. So, if there aren't any testifiers...Jasee, you're going to testify? You're going to testify? Okay, three minutes. I'm not going to read them all. You know it already.

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

MR. LAW: How do you say me in 'olelo? How do you say me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wau.

MR. LAW: Wau. Jasee Law from Kula Uka. I just wanted to aloha awakea everybody out there in *Akakū* land. Hi, Alice. I just wanted to thank your communications and Hawaiian Language Specialist, Nālani Fujihara, for translating the agenda into 'olelo. I really appreciate that. And hearing you speak 'olelo, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, is like drinking pure cool water from a mountain stream.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Jasee. Okay, and it's Nālani. Yeah, she's amazing, and we're so grateful to have her. All right. I'll do final call for testifiers. Seeing no one approaching the podium, and no one unmuting or beginning to speak online. If there are no objections, we'll close public testimony. Are there any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, public testimony is now closed. We'll continue to accept written testimony.

**. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we'll now open the floor for discussion. I'll put three minutes on the clock for questions, and we'll start with the introducer of this Resolution, Council Chair Alice Lee, followed by Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Mr. Gouveia, the --

MR. GOUVEIA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I didn't realize that you did a little bit more than just seeking and managing grants. You actually...you actually manage the project itself, too?

MR. GOUVEIA: Yeah. So --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Mr. Gouveia --

MR. GOUVEIA: -- this is --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you could turn on your video if you'd like.

MR. GOUVEIA: Okay. Yeah, absolutely. There we go. Yeah, I know that we had a short period of time for the presentation. You know, the statute allows RCUH to do a lot. There's certain parts that I think we can do more of. One thing that we haven't done is...you know, we don't have a grant writing office. The University really doesn't have one grant writing office either, and that's something that I think we could improve, just my personal opinion, for the State of Hawai'i. And I think everyone is having the same issues throughout the State.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, thank you. Okay, thank you. Now, I have to go on because I only have three minutes, yeah.

MR. GOUVEIA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Now, the other thing I was also contemplating that everybody would consider is that the outsourcing aspect. And that means if we did that, we wouldn't have to follow civil service wages, yeah?

MR. GOUVEIA: Correct. If it's through us, then you wouldn't. If it's --

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, you --

MR. GOUVEIA: -- through...if it's a project through us, then it would not be civil service or APT. We're on a different system.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, the reason why I mention that is because we have trouble hiring people as it is.

MR. GOUVEIA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because the civil service wages are so low...and I wish somebody would do something about that. But in the meantime --

MR. GOUVEIA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- you know, on a practical level, you have to be competitive and you want quality people, right? So, you have to raise the bar a little bit with regard to compensation. So, you're able, even though you're connected to UH, to determine your own compensation ranges?

MR. GOUVEIA: Correct. And that would be, in your situation, through agreement with you folks. So, obviously, we wouldn't give them whatever they need. It would be through coordination through your office, what you folks are willing to pay, but we would be exempt from all those APT, civil service, and other positions with the unions, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But do you --

MR. GOUVEIA: But the caveat is we need to meet all those elements that we discussed earlier, right? That's the key part, is --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Do you bid on this every year, or you under contract?

MR. GOUVEIA: No, we're just legislatively-appropriated...well, we're legislatively created and --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. GOUVEIA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, and my time is out. Thank you very much.

MR. GOUVEIA: Thank you. Yep.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. You actually had six seconds left, but . . . *(laughing)* . . . Okay, but we have a time limit. All right, we're going to go with Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, followed by Committee Member Cook.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, great. I think my question is for Mr. Gouveia. Thank you so much for the presentation. I'm not sure if you had an opportunity to read the responses from the departments, but I just was wondering about the practicality of how it could work. I didn't really know about the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i, so thank you so much for sharing. You know, a lot of times, I've been wondering about like waste-to-energy pilot-type projects, you know, for rural communities like Hāna, Lāna'i, Molokai, Lahaina, that is kind of farther away from the Central Maui landfill. And, you know, the technology involved in waste-to-energy type of projects is rapidly advancing. And I just was wondering, like, you know, if we wanted to pursue like pilot projects in partnership with the UH or RCUH, practically speaking, it...what...I know you said the criteria that we need to meet, but would that be a possibility if we're able to meet that type of criteria?

MR. GOUVEIA: Absolutely. And the evaluation would be whether or not...like you said, whether or not you would need UH experts involved with it. If it was heavily UH experts, then definitely, run it through UH, and we have that, you know, set up already. If it didn't involve UH heavily or, you know, we have some projects that could be a direct project that just asks a UH person, for example, for just a little spiel on their expert portion, and you folks want to run with the rest of it on your own, you could do a direct project in that way. But if it's heavily UH, then it would be a UH principal investigator running it. But, yeah. All of that could be considered. And again, it's a case-by-case to determine what the best approach is.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And we even recently had like a gray water reuse project, I think at Launiupoko. I'm not sure the status of it, but it was like, you know, to reuse some of the water from the shower like that, to irrigate the park and like that, and those types of things that are kind of...I mean, it seems a little bit common sense but, you know, we don't have the technical expertise, per se. And it seems like that is the point of the University of Hawai'i, to like in that way raise our standard of living.

MR. GOUVEIA: I agree. I think we have everything we need here in Hawai'i. And we got the people, it's just collaborating, it's sitting down at a table and talking. And, you know, the...something that we're pretty good at. In Hawai'i, we're not as good as we...or as I think, but we need to collaborate more. And we have experts all



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over University of Hawai'i. It's amazing, you know, the work that we do and...well, the work that UH does. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I'm RCUH now, but, you know, I support it.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I heard the timer, I just was making sure that . . .*(inaudible)*. . . was taking notes on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Next we have Member Cook, followed by --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's okay--followed by Member Kama. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question would be for Mister...is it Logouveia [*sic*]?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Gouveia.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Gouveia. Okay. My question's for what I'm going to call a plain vanilla, high-dollar, Public Works project...be it flood control, or energy development for pumping our water for sewage and water. Is that the type of grants that you would be able to oversee? And I'm curious, if the answer is yes...or acquire...apply for and acquire, how is the continuity when a project's done over a period of years? Thank you.

MR. GOUVEIA: So, I think...well, again, back to what I said earlier, I think UH would be a perfect place to start. And they have experts in many different areas and, you know, they can do crossover, they can do joint OPIs on projects if you have more than one need, and that would be a perfect place to start. Again, we at RCUH do not...we don't go out and get our own grants. The legislature...the statute allows us to...arguably allows us to do stuff like that, but we haven't done it ourselves. But I think that's something that UH and RCUH and the State should evaluate. And, you know, there's definitely a need for all of this in coordinating and determining, you know, what can be done. But as far as the length of time is concerned, a lot of these projects come on, and they have a set time frame and set funds, but as time goes on, more funds come in and it's extended. So, it isn't uncommon for us to end up with projects that do last a long time.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, for clarification for my question, if it was a \$300 million water development project that had a reservoir and a pipeline for Upcountry for Ag water, would you be able to like get Federal grants, and not be affiliated with the University?

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MR. GOUVEIA: We could. Yes, I'm sure we could.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Cook. Next we have Member Kama, followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I think...I want to...if Mr. Nishita is here...still here?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He had to leave already --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Is he still here, Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- but his Staff is still here.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But you can ask your question, and then someone from personnel...from the Administration can answer.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, okay, okay. Okay. So, a couple of years ago, I had approached the Administration with an entity called BerryDunn. And what they do was they were able to take a look at all the Federal grants that are out there, and be able to align whatever grants that were out there with whatever the needs were of our County, and be able to, you know, do the vetting, the procurement, development the grant management systems for us, and that would help us to manage these grants, and then even help us to conduct internal controls on these big Federal grants. So, I don't know what happened to that, whether the Administration took a look at that, or didn't take a look at that, and I just wanted to know what happened to that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. I think I will have to request that you send that question to

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, I will do that.

MS. MILNER: -- the Managing Director because I'm not aware. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay, thank you. So, then, my next question is for you, Mr. Gouveia. Do you have, within the RCUH system, a official area, or office, or somebody that can actually review and have a sense of all the Federal, State grants that are out there? So, that whatever it is that you all needed that you

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could just pinpoint to that and says, that's where we're going to get that from to do what we need to get done. Do you folks have something like that?

MR. GOUVEIA: We do not currently have that. UH is in a better position for that. So that's under the Vice President for Research and Innovation, Dr. Syrmos. But again, he's a system office, and I know that there's a need across the different campuses. Mānoa brings in the majority of the research work, but I'm also aware that there is no one office that does all of that. But I hear what you're saying. I think that is something that we should have --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. GOUVEIA: -- but right now, everybody's kind of left to go hunt and get their own food depending on, you know, what their needs are.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. So, my sense is that if we could just have one place where everybody can go shopping at, that has all the Federal grants for whatever, whether it's for roads, or bridges, or infrastructure, or housing, or whatever, whatever--that that's where you would go, you know, and then, you know, you peruse through that menu that's available. And then you just apply for it, and then continue the process like that.

MR. GOUVEIA: So, there are resources out there, but it's not...to my knowledge, nothing at the University of Hawai'i or the State of Hawai'i that has a one-stop . . .(timer sounds). . . shop like that. But I totally agree with you that that would be a great idea.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. I just heard the buzzer.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Okay, next is Member Sinenci, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo for being here this afternoon. Question for Chief of Staff Lallo. I know just as far as general operations for grants, did we pass the deadline yet to apply for them, for County grants? Was that up to November 1st?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief of Staff?

MS. LALLO: Yeah, thank you. The application deadline is November 1st.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, November 1st. We'll put it out there. Okay. So, all you nonprofits, November 1st is that...okay. And then for Mr. Gouveia, just following up. For East Maui we have all these old water systems, and just the ranch systems and all that. We're looking for grants that would help us to fix

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these 100-year-old systems, and we've seen kind of that across the nation where these old water systems are being fixed. Are there funding out there to help with these and increase our water source?

MR. GOUVEIA: I believe that there is. The funding sources are everywhere for pretty much everything. It's just a matter of coordinating. And again, I think that's something that the University of Hawai'i would lead. That isn't something that we've been leading or would do without, of course, the support of the University of Hawai'i and the State. We aren't, again, legislatively created, so we're limited to what the State and the University wants of us.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. GOUVEIA: But I think that I'm sure there's opportunities out there.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you for that. And then most of us attended the Hawai'i State Association of Counties last...two weeks ago, and from the State, there was a lot of interest in expanding our agricultural production. So, are there, and I know that when we were in DC last year, was it Representative Tokuda who had the...or Mazie that had some of the farm bill items? So, are we looking at some of those things just to expand our Department of Agriculture, and looking at some of that help from the Federal Government?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief of Staff or Budget Director, whoever --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I've seen some...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- in Administration.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, anyone.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question. We are looking at a variety of different grants. We are certainly at a unique time with the Federal dollars that are available, as you just mentioned, as well as the recovery efforts of our Lahaina community. So, yes, definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. . . .(timer sounds). . .

MS. MILNER: Oh, sorry, Chair, just briefly. Not to speak on Claudine's behalf, but...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, timer. Just kidding. Go ahead, Budget Director.

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MS. MILNER: I know she's checking the Federal Register regularly to see if there are any opportunities out there, and coordinating with Departments if there are any that seem to align with the County's needs.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Sugimura, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Gouveia. So, is this where Harold Matsumoto was, RCUH?

MR. GOUVEIA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. GOUVEIA: Yes, Harold was there years ago. His wife was the last Executive Director prior to me.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: She was my college professor, Sylvia.

MR. GOUVEIA: Yeah. So, Dr. Yuen. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, Sylvia Yuen. Anyway --

MR. GOUVEIA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- great operation, and interesting. I guess that's a whole other conversation. I want to go to Administration. So, Administration, I think what I'm hearing you say is that you have loosely put together an organization kind of like RCUH, and that probably you're...explain to us how you can see improving, or what you may need to enhance so you can get to that stage like RCUH.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief of Staff.

MS. LALLO: Yes, thank you. Thank you for that. Yes, I would say that is absolutely the case. One of the things that I think the...when you contract out to an organization outside of you, you have to spend a lot of time with that subject-matter expertise. I'm hearing that RCUH has some of that subject-matter expertise, but by utilizing a hybrid system and having folks within the department, yes, that is absolutely the hope and the dream there. Obviously, pulling the resources together budgetarily, and then also the Human Resources...I think Chair Lee mentioned the challenge with that sometimes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And can you share with us, I think Claudine San Nicolas kind of started talking about it. Can you go through, maybe in a letter

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you can get it to us if we don't have it already, all the departments that do have grant writers, their successes, what they bring in? And I know that --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Most of that is uploaded to Granicus already.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, it is. Okay. And I know that in our...in our budgets, we have those, you know, repetitive kind of, I call it grants that we get and that goes into our budget document that we receive from all the other...we receive from various departments. And then there are those that, you know, Claudine or I don't know who, it sounds like has to go after the new funding sources. Is that how you're set up?

MS. MILNER: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. Yes, that's kind of what we're looking at right now. We do have grants that we receive on an annual basis that...and allocations that we receive from the Federal Government on an annual basis that we can count on every year. But then, especially right now, there are significant funding opportunities that are available to the County in the area of recovery that we're trying to seek out, and Claudine's working with the departments to apply for those.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, do we have a nonprofit that we hired out, I forget the name, to take care of all that?

MS. MILNER: We've been working with a couple of nonprofits, well, I'm not sure if they're nonprofits, but a couple of consultants. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Tetra Tech is working with Office of Recovery on FEMA funding, that's their primary focus. And then the Water Department has a consultant that they work with as well to go after funding opportunities.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. And that...like I said, all the departments received a letter from myself requesting all the information regarding grants. Most of the departments have responded. I did give them a very tight timeline, so I appreciate those that were able to, and absolutely understand those that have not been able to get that information back to us yet. Those departments did reach out to me and, you know, like I said, I understand it was like, I think, a four-day turnaround time. So, some divisions have a lot more grants than other departments. We'll upload those responses when we receive them. Member U'u-Hodgins.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, everyone, for explaining all of the things that everybody has to do. I cannot imagine. I do have a quick question for Mr. Gouveia. Thank you so much for being with us today. The benefit of sometimes going last is I got to look at UH...or RCUH, and your strategic plan, which is very curious to me. Can I ask you a question about it?

MR. GOUVEIA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay, thank you. So, you guys have Goal 3 and B. Now, we have a problem with staffing shortage, but I see that you guys have check mark next to address some of your staffing shortage, and it looks like it has been completed. So, I'm wondering if you could share with us how you are able to do that. I know that they're not like considered...I don't know, you explain that to me, please, or...and us. Thank you.

MR. GOUVEIA: Sure. So, I'll start off by saying that we have two groups of employees. The first group is our core staff, and that's made up of approximately 35 people who are all located in the East-West Center, and that group supports all of the research projects, both the UH projects and the direct projects, which is the other 3,000 employees that...roughly 3,000 will support all the projects. Those are what I would call field...people in the field. But the core staff is what we had issues with maintaining and keeping. So it's kind of two different issues. But, you know, it isn't simple for us. We found recently that it's been a little bit easier to find people, but, yeah, we did have a problem in the past because a lot of people are retiring and whatnot. But, you know, I think it's similar to everyone else with finding the right people, but it has gotten better, and we are fully staffed now, put it that way.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Awesome. Congratulations on that. That's huge.

MR. GOUVEIA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: And then, with your 154 projects on Maui County, I'm wondering if you could just share some of the things you folks are doing here.

MR. GOUVEIA: Oh, my goodness. There's a lot of things that we do. A lot of them for UH researchers, we have water, we have agriculture. Dr. Syrmos, Vassilis Syrmos, the VP for the Research and Innovation, has been doing a lot of different projects. And there's a new Indigenous office that's in the news lately, and they have...I think next month, early November, they have a yearly seminar basically, and if you folks haven't seen that, I would look into that. But you name it, we are supporting it. As I showed on that one page, we have quite a few projects out there that we support, and it's increasing, you know, we have UH researchers, PIs...even Chancellor Hokoana, who has projects. So, yeah, I mean, it's...you name it, we have it.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member U‘u-Hodgins. Okay, my turn. I’ll put three minutes on the clock. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Gouveia. I just wanted to clarify that last point that you made. Were you talking about Mr. Kamuela Enos with the Office of Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation?

MR. GOUVEIA: Correct.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ah.

MR. GOUVEIA: Correct.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We just...we had him in my Committee present some of the projects that his office has been working on. Amazing. Okay.

MR. GOUVEIA: Yeah. So, they were on the news this morning, too. They have a good thing going.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Okay. Some...most of my questions...most of the questions that I have were around salary. Let’s see. For the civil service positions that you have for like the grants management, it would then fall under...what is that, HGEA?...so it’s similar...like project...position description setting the salary, as like Maui County, and the other counties, and the rest of the State, correct? Okay. I think. Oh --

MR. GOUVEIA: No. So, we don’t have any civil service positions, and we have no APT positions. Yeah, I mentioned that a little bit earlier. So, all of our people who are hired are basically paid for by extramural awards that come in. And so, the reasoning behind that with RCUH is, you need to be able to hire and fire quickly for projects. So, if we hire somebody who is part of the State APT or civil service, when the project is done, you have...if we’re under the State, we’d have to keep them on and find work for them. And there’s no way that we could, you know, run an operation, and support research, and keep hiring people day after day and not have work for them. So, that’s a key difference between the people that we hire and the people that University of Hawai’i would hire.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, that makes sense. Mahalo. And then to contrast that with the County, with Administration, the tendency is to describe the positions under civil service for that continuity because we would continuously be doing that type of work of --

MR. GOUVEIA: Correct.



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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- application...grant application, grants management reporting, et cetera. And so, we then, County Administration, runs into the challenge of attracting qualified individuals, and then retaining them when our pay isn't as competitive. So, thoughts on that.

MR. GOUVEIA: So...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

MR. GOUVEIA: Are you talking to me...sorry?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Budget Director. And then if you have thoughts --

MR. GOUVEIA: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- on that, I'll invite you to also share comments. Budget Director.

MR. GOUVEIA: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I mean, I think we're all keenly aware of the staff and concerns at the County. I don't have the numbers in front of me on how many grant management positions we currently have vacant. I do think, just off the top of my head, thinking of the Department of Human Concerns, I think they've done a pretty good job at retaining their grants managers that are civil service positions. I can provide that to you formally when I have my budget details in front of me. But I do think grants management is one area where I think we've done all right in recruiting and filling those positions, and that's why we're hopeful. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Okay. Mr. Gouveia?

MR. GOUVEIA: Yeah. I'd just like to add that on the UH side, most of the grant writers are the principal investigators. They are the ones who run the projects, and seek the awards, and they do the grant writing. So, I think that's part of the reason why there isn't any set grant office. But there is definitely a need for grant writers, and if you get 'em, you definitely want to keep 'em. I totally understand that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Gouveia. Okay, so that completes round one. We're at 2:46, so about 14 minutes. Round two, anyone have additional questions, please raise your hand, and I'll call you when you raise your hand. Okay, I see Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. The grants managers in Human Concerns, they manage grants that go out, not come in, you know, so, big difference. The grants

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division or section of the County that I was proposing would bring in funding...bring in the funding. The grants managers at Human Concerns are like the grants managers at OED. They manage the monies going out. So...okay. Thank you very much, though, Mr. Gouveia, for being...for coming here today and bringing your resource folks. That's very interesting. Do you have a copy...did you send us a copy of your presentation?

MR. GOUVEIA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You did?

MR. GOUVEIA: Yes. And online, you can go to our website as well for the longer version.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay. How many more pages?

MR. GOUVEIA: I don't think it's too much longer on the number of pages, but the links in there are significant, so...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Very good. Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. GOUVEIA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Lee. So, that is Granicus item number 17 for your reference. Did you want to go online, or did you want to just make a comment after them? Because Member Paltin raised her hand before you. Oh, okay. Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, followed by Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, thank you, Chair. I wanted to follow up...I don't know if Josiah is still there, or if someone from --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He had to leave.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, is anyone from the Administration --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- about the idea of, you know, pilot waste-to-energy projects collaborating with the RCUH for our rural communities. Like is that something we could do in the next two, five, ten years?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief of Staff?

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MS. LALLO: Yes. Thank you for the...thank you for that question. I can tell you that we actually have two grant writers in the Office of Innovation and Sustainability that are currently tracking 20 grants. Some of those have to do with that subject-matter. But I think we are better together than apart, so having a partner to team up on that would be brilliant.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And if I could go back to Mr. Gouveia, are you still in agreement with that?

MR. GOUVEIA: I'm in agreement with it. Chair, the one thing that we're missing is grant writing, the grant writing part of it. And that's something that we haven't explored, but it's definitely something that I would like to do. And even if we don't end up doing it, having it in the State, whoever does it, I think it's an excellent idea, and we would love to contribute to support that.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. And I'm just saying I feel like the UH would be great in these areas where technology is moving and advancing so rapidly. And that's why, too, I was thinking about a pilot project because, you know, if it...if it...a pilot really works for us. It doesn't matter how far technology advances, or maybe we could just incorporate bits of technology that advances. But right now, I don't know that we're dealing with our waste very efficiently in the very rural areas, you know what I mean?

MR. GOUVEIA: I think UH has all the people you need. It's just a matter...again, a matter of talking to them and finding who would be the right people to do it.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, awesome. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. I wasn't meaning to cut in line. I thought Mr. Gouveia was leaving. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, before...I wanted to ask you, does MISC have a grant with you? I always hear about UH has their grant, is it you? Is it RCUH, or...

MR. GOUVEIA: Who was that, sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Maui Invasive Species Committee.

MR. GOUVEIA: Oh. Yes, we do have something with them.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

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MR. GOUVEIA: We do have Glenn online. He can give you more details, but I know that we do have some work with them.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Don't have to, I was just curious.

MR. GOUVEIA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And then the other organization that uses you is...important to us is the broadband for the County of Maui.

MR. GOUVEIA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I know UH is getting all the money, so does it come to you, or is there another section?

MR. GOUVEIA: So, that's a good example of a huge project that's coming through. Not all the money is coming through us, but that one came through us, and we are currently working with VP Yoshimi on that. But yes, that is a very big project. Again, you know, if VP Yoshimi wasn't a part of it, then it would probably be run through the State only, but it's tied to the University in that situation. But we are doing work for both UH and the State of Hawai'i, the LG office who is tied to that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good job, Jolie, right? Jolie, her last...Jenkins, yeah. She needs four frames for the presentation that's happening next week from my office, so I committed to that. But just the...I know that RCUH does a lot of amazing work, and I'm trying to understand when does it go to the UH side and yours, but that will be a separate conversation. Thank you for educating us, and I think that I can see the wheels churning for Administration on how we can be better and maybe mimic some of this. I wish that we could say, okay, we're not going to pay civil service wages, right? If we can do that, but it's not something that we can do, and I think they have these benefits by the...all those HRS Sections that they're exempt from filing...providing or following so that they can act more like a business, like a private business. So, that's interesting, how the legislature has set that up. So, we should try to see if we can advocate for that...us...the County of Maui, too. Nothing more. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay, any other questions from the Members? Okay. Seeing no other questions, I just have a couple of follow-up questions. Budget Director Milner, in your opening remarks, you spoke about...I know it's early--that you haven't concluded on what direction the Administration has decided to go, but it's looking like a hybrid where individuals in each office, so that their subject-matter experts would remain within the department in which the grants would fund projects to. You mentioned--so, this...the Resolution talks about creating a new department, which would be a

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Charter Amendment, but it could be an office, and that wouldn't require a Charter Amendment. Hawai'i County has a research and development office, which is amazing, I've always wanted that. So, the idea is perhaps to create an office the way that we had, like a Climate and Action Resiliency...Climate Action and Resiliency office within like Department of Management?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The Climate Action Resiliency Office, I think, was under Office of the Mayor?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It was under the Office of the Mayor, but...so, this...sorry. I was just likening that.

MS. MILNER: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because it was the discretion of the Mayor to create that office under the Office of the Mayor. And so, under the Department of Management, it would be...I mean, it would still be up to the Mayor, I assume.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, we've spoken to the Mayor about this, and he agrees with the approach to have these be civil service positions, and is on board with pursuing the creation. We've also spoken to the Managing Director to make sure he was okay having it housed in a different run of management. As you all know, he's very busy. But yes, it would be up to...not only the Mayor because the budget amendment would come to the Council. So, I think the Administration and the Council need to agree on this approach before it goes anywhere--because we want to make sure that this is something that can last in the County for a long time going forward. So, we want to make sure everyone is on board.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. So, we'll have a follow-up meeting on this to see where we land. Okay, I see Committee Vice-Chair Paltin with her hand up.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, thank you. I was wondering if anyone is looking at roadblocks to Hawai'i being able to access grant money. There's a relatively new FEMA program called Building Resistant Infrastructures and Communities. It's like a BRIC nationally-competitive program started in 2020 that supports hazard mitigation, and we got a lot of hazards to mitigate. The first year, was 450 million was funded. The next year 919 million, but we only got 600,000. And they said about a third of an applicant's potential success is based on having up-to-date local building codes and getting a good grade in a national program called the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule. But like...states like New Jersey usually receive authorization for 58.5 billion (*phonetic*), and we got like way more coastline than New Jersey, I think. So, I just was wondering if anyone is looking

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at like what some of the roadblocks are to us being able to access that Federal monies.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Thank you, Chair. I'm going to have Claudine talk. I know at least one thing that we've started to discuss is the census tracks, and she feels very strongly about this, so I'll let her speak to it. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. San Nicolas.

MS. SAN NICOLAS: Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. The issue is eligibility on the BRIC funding. They have a toll in how they measure census tracks, and how they measure underserved communities. So, that's actually part of the grant team. We need to work on realigning our...not realigning our communities, but ensuring that the maps that the census bureau has reflects our community, and it doesn't right now. And so, unfortunately, we didn't qualify for BRIC because of the tools that FEMA is using to measure eligibility. But we have talked to them about it, and there are two agencies--I want to say water, but maybe I shouldn't--which I'm not sure which agency of how can we work around it, and how can we build relationship with the funder to show them that yes, we really do qualify for this, we just don't have the tool in place right now to show you that. Does that make sense? Yeah. But yes, BRIC was definitely one, and I shared with Budget Director that it's kind of frustrating because, on the books, we don't have the eligibility match right now...we, Maui County.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, like the way that FEMA defines a community as small and disadvantaged criteria?

MS. SAN NICOLAS: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(audio interference)*. . . and open the door to greater amounts of funding.

MS. SAN NICOLAS: I think I heard something --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'm glad you're looking at it.

MS. SAN NICOLAS: I'm not sure, but we just don't...we just aren't eligible as it's written. . .*(timer sounds)*. . . It's a conversation you have to have with the grantor about...or the granting agency about how can we work this out. Because we do have eligibility, but it's just not official. But it is...the census track is something, actually, we are seriously discussing in the Mayor's Office as part of grant coordination. Thank you.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Okay, and then real quick. So, I know Member Paltin talked about the BRIC specifically funding. But I think part of her question was also examining roadblocks to other Federal funds, and if this office would look at that...look at...explore what the roadblocks could be, and addressing those so that we can qualify for different Federal funds, et cetera.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, that would definitely be part of the role of this office, to talk to FEMA and other agencies about realigning our census tracks to make sure we qualify for grants that we should be qualifying for. Looking at oh, our building code's up to date, have we received the appropriate certification, making sure that we check those boxes to make ourselves eligible for as much funding as possible. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Okay, seeing no other hands, I'll invite Ms. San Nicolas or Ms. Landgraf. I know a lot of questions didn't come your direction, so if there was anything that you wanted to provide comments on, I'll invite you at this time, and then we'll bring the meeting to a close.

MS. LANDGRAF: Thank you, Chair. No remarks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. It looks like we're all done here. Okay. So, for today, I won't be recommending adoption of the Resolution because it sounds like the Administration is working on that, and we'll do a follow-up soon when we're ready, hopefully not too long from now, but I'll be in touch. Okay, so if there are no objections, we'll defer this item, ECSC-6. Any objections?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Okay, Staff, did I miss anything...anything else before we adjourn?

MS. MCKINLEY: There's nothing else, Chair. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Okay. So, that concludes our meeting today. It's 3:01 on October 7. I'll thank Mr. Gouveia and his team for joining us today, as well as the Administration. Mahalo for all your help today. Okay. It's 3:01, October 7, and the ESCS Committee is now adjourned. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

**ADJOURN:** 3:01 p.m.

APPROVED:



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KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair  
Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems  
Committee

escs:min: 241007:ta

Transcribed by: Terianne Arreola



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CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 32 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 28th day of October 2024, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



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Terianne Arreola