

# ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

## MINUTES

February 12, 2019

Council Chamber

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

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Kelly T. King  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina (In 1:37 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

**STAFF:** Kasie Apo-Takayama, Legislative Analyst  
Traci Fujita, Legislative Attorney  
Nicole Siegel, Committee Secretary  
Stacey Vinoray, Committee Secretary

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)

Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lanai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, Hana Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)

Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci  
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci

**ADMIN.:** Richelle Thomson, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Michele McLean, Acting Director, Department of Planning  
Pamela Eaton, Planning Program Administrator, Long Range Planning Division, Department of Planning (EACP-17(1))  
Jim Buika, Coastal Zone Management Planner, Department of Planning (EACP-5)

*Seated in the gallery*

Keanu Lau Hee, Shoreline Planner, Department of Planning (EACP-5)

**OTHERS:** Tara Owens, Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist, University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program (EACP-5)

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

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CHAIR SINENCI: . . . (*gavel*) . . . Aloha. The Environmental, Agriculture, and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting of February 12, 2019, will come to order. I'm Shane Sinenci, the Chair of the Committee. May I please request that everyone disable cell phones, and noise-making devices, please? I'd like to introduce our Committee Members, Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good afternoon. Member Michael Molina is excused and is en route. Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good afternoon. And Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good afternoon. Today, we have the Department of Corporation Counsel representative, Richelle Thomson; Administration representatives Pam Eaton, in the gallery, and Jim Buika. We also have Tara Owens of the Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist of the University of Hawaii.

MS. OWENS: Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha. For staff today, we have Traci Fujita, Kasie Apo-Takayama, Nicole Siegel, and Stacey Vinoray. Today, we have EACP-5 on Beach Erosion, Sea Level Rise, Storms, and Flooding Impacts on the County Infrastructure. We also have EACP-17(1), Matters Within the Committee's Subject Matter Jurisdiction (Countywide Policy Plan and Maui Island Plan). For individuals testifying in the Chamber, please sign up at the desk just outside the Chamber door. If testifying from one of the remote testimony sites, please sign up with the District Office staff. Testimony will be limited to the items listed on the agenda today only. Pursuant to the Rules of the Council, each testifier will be allowed to testify for up to three minutes per item. Also pursuant to the Rules of the Council, please advise the Committee when you testify you're a paid, if you are a paid lobbyist. When testifying, please state your name, and any organization you may be representing. The Chair would also like to recognize Member Mike Molina.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you for coming. Staff, do we have any testifiers at this time?

MS. FUJITA: Chair, there is no one waiting to sign up to testify, and there is no one waiting at the District Offices to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Members, seeing that there are no individuals wishing to testify, without objection I will now close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

**ITEM EACP-5: BEACH EROSION, SEA LEVEL RISE, STORMS AND FLOODING IMPACTS  
ON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE (CC 17-124)**

CHAIR SINENCI: The first item we have is Beach Erosion, Sea Level Rise, Storms, and Flooding Impacts on the County Infrastructure. Members, today we have, we will be receiving information from individuals with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant program, and the County's Department of Planning, who have studied our shoreline and beach management issues. Your Chair has invited these individuals to provide us with some context in this area. For purposes of future discussions, your Chair may be also considering inviting County departments with infrastructure at risk because of beach erosion, sea level rise, storms and flooding, such as the Department of Environmental Management, whose wastewater treatment plant in Kahului sits in a vulnerable location. Or, the Chair might invite the Department of Parks and Recreation, whose facilities, such as the Baldwin Beach Park restrooms, have been particularly impacted by erosion. We will first start with Ms. Tara Owens, then continue on to Mr. Jim Buika from the Department of Planning. Members, as noted on today's agenda, Tara Owens is a Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist. In that capacity, she has specialized knowledge about the hazards and challenges in, that we face in the County's coastal areas. If there are no objections, your Chair would like to designate Ms. Owens a resource person pursuant to Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Ms. Owens, please proceed with the presentation

**. . . BEGIN PRESENTATION . . .**

MS. OWENS: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Councilmembers, very much for the invitation today. We always appreciate the opportunity to come share with Council the, the information that is available to you, and serve as resource people. I'm, Jim and I are

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going to tag team a little bit today, so I'll start off giving some background information, and then Jim will conclude with some perspective from the, the Planning Department. For those of you who haven't yet had the opportunity to get to know me, just so you understand my role, I work for the University of Hawaii Sea Grant program, and we have a cadre of coastal hazards specialists throughout the State. My program is based at UH Manoa, but I live and work here on Maui, and I'm in a cost share position with the County, actually. So the County, through the Council's budget, funds a percentage of my position each year to keep me here as a technical liaison to the County. So I serve the Planning Department, but also the commissions, the councils, and the community in that role. I wanna start off today, the topic was infrastructure. So what I usually like to do, with respect to erosion and sea level rise, is show some examples of what is happening right now, what we're facing on the ground. And so I've kind of focused some of those examples this time on infrastructure, but public infrastructure. But we have examples all around Maui of both public and private infrastructure and development that are impacted by these coastal hazards issues. So here's one example, this is South Kihei Road, right across from the Kihei Youth Center, that area. And, so what you see here, is that the high wash of the waves is becoming very, very close to the road itself. The picture up in the corner, the inset there, shows you a time when we have high tide and high waves, how the roadbed itself periodically is exposed to those waves. So this is one area that is an erosion hot spot that will likely be a concern in the near future. And so we would like to think about proactively addressing this before it becomes a true emergency. I just went and snapped this shot the other day during our storm conditions, Sunday afternoon/evening, and the ocean was pretty angry down in Kihei. So this is right, right around in the same area, and luckily we weren't having really high tides, but, at times in Kihei, when we get a combination of high tides and waves, we really see that the road is very vulnerable. The, the Chair just mentioned, in his intro comments, the, the pavilion and the restroom at Baldwin Beach. So this is a photograph of the pavilion in late summer. The end of summer is typically when we reach the peak of erosion at the east end of Baldwin Beach in the area that's sometimes referred to as "the cove." The reason for that is we have trade winds blowing from, you know, March or April through September timeframe from the east, and so they create currents that push sand to the west, toward the Baby Beach end. On top of that, the existing revetment at the old limekiln revetment, it, it's a manmade structure that interrupts sand transport along the, the shoreline there. So it exacerbates the erosion on the downdrift side, which is right here in the cove area. So by the end of the summer, we get, sometimes up to 100 feet of shoreline recession. And then when the first northwest winter swell's coming in, come in from the opposite direction, we typically see this type of flooding in the pavilion, which pushes sand and over washes sand into the pavilion. . .and has, in, in years past, started to undermine some of the infrastructure there. You probably know also, in previous years, I think it was 2011, the old comfort station itself went into the ocean and was demolished and cleaned up by the Parks Department. So this, this is an ongoing concern. Many of you familiar, too, with many of the parts of the highway out to the west side, that are vulnerable to erosion and high waves, especially if we have a combination of high tides and high waves. So this is in August 2012, when the State Department of Transportation was constructing a new sea wall to protect the road from erosion. And this is when our community really began to

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become aware of some of the challenges and issues with this type of response to coastal erosion, since sea walls are really considered a last resort, and can have, have a range of consequences, including loss of beach. But one thing I like to point out is, this is post-construction, so you can see the completed sea wall there. But, but one thing that's still evident, is that in spite of the wall, which, which does serve to sort of hold the line and, and at least temporarily stop the erosion, we still have periods of over wash into the road during swell seasons, and especially if we have high tides, and the road is still very vulnerable in spite of these attempts to protect it. Here's another example of road-type infrastructure that's currently experiencing some impacts from high waves, erosion, and also inland flooding. So this is Kaopala Bay, on the west side, so this is the local road there that is under County Public Works jurisdiction. And so this is currently an area where the Planning Department and Public Works are trying to determine what is the best solution for protecting the road. This is an, this is an example of more a private infrastructure, but I point this out because this is, this is Kaanapali Beach Club on the west side. There has been sev..., severe erosion at this site in the last few years, but right here is a shoreline access to the shoreline, there is a restroom, and prior to this photograph being taken, there was a shower, and the continuation of the shoreline access walkway there that was, had to be removed in response to the erosion there in 2016 and 2017. This is that same site looking from the ground, so you can see the people in the background. We have a, an erosion scarp here that's about 10 feet in elevation. This was after the 2015 and '16 El Niño conditions, which increased sea level ri..., sea levels regionally here and, and caused a lot of erosion that we're still recovering from. These are the conditions now today. There has been temporary erosion mitigation installed. This is a geotextile fabric blanket that was draped over the bank, backed by some sandbag-like materials to mitigate the erosion while the property owners assess and pursue a long-term solution. So, that's an ongoing story. But, so those are just a few examples of, some of the types of impacts we see, and the long story short is that Statewide, all of our shorelines, with a few exceptions, are experiencing erosion. So on Maui, it's about 85% of our shorelines are eroding or retreating over the long-term. And on Maui, compared to Kauai and Oahu with also lots of sandy beaches, we have the highest rates of erosion and the highest percentage of beach loss. In most cases, those losses of beach are correlated to the use of shoreline armoring. This is just an example of one of the erosion maps we have available, so all of the sandy beaches for Maui have been mapped like this. This is for the Baldwin Park area, so the area where the pavilion is. The red bars on this map show you the magnitude of the erosion. So the larger the bar, the larger the erosion rate. And this is looking historically through time, not factoring in the future conditions, but just looking at past trends from the early 1900s to the present. These maps were developed by UH and are used by the County for our shoreline setback policy. So more on that in a minute. Basically, there are three factors that contribute to erosion. And I know the one that's really of interest these days is sea level rise. So, sea level rise is a, is a long-term, ongoing, chronic issue. And as sea level rises, our beaches narrow, and our shorelines retreat in response. So, that's a major factor in some of the conditions we see. But also, of course, as you know, living on Maui, we have seasonal wave conditions, like our winter north swell, or our summertime south swell, that can also lead to erosion. And what we're seeing now is that because of this long-term chronic erosion, our beaches are getting so narrow, that

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there's no longer enough buffer in the system. You know, the beach buffers, buffers the land behind it from the waves. And, as those shorelines narrow and degrade, that buffering system no longer serves its purpose. So these seasonal conditions, or periodic storms that come along, like the one we just had, tend to have some pretty extensive impacts. And then, on top of that, there are things, human interventions, that we've employed along the way that exacerbate the problem; things like mining sand from beaches in the past, which was done heavily at Baldwin Beach on the north shore, and also building sea walls that impound sand and cause additional erosion to adjacent properties. And so what we're starting to see is a combination of these things. Sometimes, when we have higher sea level rise as a result of king tides, these are our seasonal high tides, plus swell events, we're starting to see that. . . a glimpse of the future. These types of things, where the wa..., waves were over-washing the highway, are going to become probably more and more frequent until it becomes a, a permanent condition. But we're doing a lot Statewide to, to try to address the issue and at least it's kicking off a lot of conversations in our communities, at the very least. So, fortunately, in 2014, the Legislature got involved and passed Act 83. And then they built on that in 2017 to pass Act 80, Act 32. These are now referred to as the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative. And ther..., lots of stuff is going on, but initially the main focus was to develop the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, which we now have. It was adopted in 2017, at the very end of the year, December, by the State Climate Commission. And that report set out to assess vulnerabilities to coastal hazards with respect to sea level rise and provide recommendations for improving resilience. So now we have this report, and what goes along with this report, is new modeling and mapping of the sea level rise exposure of our lands. So, the State Climate Commission actually commissioned UH to do this new sea level rise modeling, and so I want to show you conceptually what that looks like, and then I'll show you some real examples. So the Statewide Sea Level Rise Report says that we're expecting, we use 1 foot, 1 foot of sea level rise as the present to near-term scenario. So this is kind of what the conditions look like right now today. And then 3 feet of sea level rise, or 3.2 feet of sea level rise, as the scenario for possibly as early as the second half of the century, so 2050, 2060, possibly later. One thing we know is that these, these thresholds, 1 foot, 2 feet, 3 feet, are, are at this point, given the latest science, very conservative estimates of what we may be facing. But the most uncertain thing right now is the timing, but it looks, based on the best available science, that we could see 3 feet as early as mid-century. So, the State recommends, the Climate Commission recommends, planning for 3 feet now, and possibly using higher thresholds for critical infrastructure that have really long life spans and, you know, maybe lower risk tolerance. So roads, and wastewater facilities, water facilities, et cetera. So, UH developed three new models, and we have this amazing, really high-resolution set of models and maps now for our State that don't exist everywhere. The first model we refer to as "passive flooding," or "still-water flooding." So this means, as sea level rises, just, it's kind of like filling your bath tub. You raise the water level. Some water will seep in from the ocean side, some water will bubble up through the ground, so groundwater inundation. And that is represented in this passive flooding model. They've also modeled high waves on top of sea level rise. And that's really important for Hawaii. So, some places in the world, passive flooding kind of really represents the hazard, but as

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you guys know, here, during our seasonal high-wave events, if you raise the sea level just a little bit, and you add waves on top of that, then we see much more horizontal inundation, and that leads to erosion and impacts. So they've modeled annual highway flooding as well. And the third and final model is looking at projections of erosion with sea level rise. And so each of those layers are combined to ultimately form what is referred to as the "Sea Level Rise Exposure Area," or we call it the "SLR-XA." The 3.2-foot SLR-XA. So this is a composite of these three models. So here's some examples of that. This is Kealia Pond area, and this is going into the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Viewer, which is a companion to the report. And I can actually live demo that in a few minutes, it's of, of interest. Because one, the one thing I'd like everybody, especially Councilmembers and the community, to take away is that this Viewer is there. You can go to the Viewer, use the Viewer, zoom into any area of interest. If you have one particular type of infrastructure that you're interested in, the wastewater facility, whatever it may be, you can zoom there, and you can look at these sea level rise exposure layers and use them in any County decision making. So, this is passive flooding, so this still-water flooding at Kealia Pond, so this is a good example of where you'll see that. Kealia Pond is a, a wetland already, so, low-elevation land, and the water comes up through the ground, and it comes from oceanside. So you, you guys are getting used to seeing this now, where the entry to Kealia Pond is flooded with water. This can happen even in the summertime, when there's no rain, because the water is coming up through the ground with, especially during the summer high tides. And then annual highway flooding, this is a screengrab from the Sea Level Rise Viewer of the Olowalu and Ukumehame area. So you can see some of these blue areas, this shows where there will be future flooding from seasonal high waves with, in, com..., combined with sea level rise. So, you know, this, the example I showed earlier of the highway a couple of years ago when we had our summer king tides, is a good example of that. And then finally, we have the erosion model. So this comes in the form of these colored lines, and you can see the colored lines represent erosion with half a foot of sea level rise, 1 foot of sea level rise, 2 feet of sea level rise, and 3.2 feet of sea level rise. So the red line is the, the 3.2, the projection of erosion with 3.2 feet of sea level rise. And of course we have lots of examples of, you know, what, what erosion looks like. So this is the website, if you ever want to explore further, you can go to [Hawaiisealevelriseviewer.org](http://Hawaiisealevelriseviewer.org). This is what the site will look like when you go there. I'm just gonna do real quick, a demo, because I'd really like everybody to be comfortable with using the Viewer. So if you go there, the first thing that I always do, right here, there's a little blue link. You can click "view full-screen map," makes it easier to see. And you can then quickly zoom to any area either by using your mouse and your scroll wheel or you can go to Maui. And, let's say, let's go to Baldwin. You get to an area really quick. And then go to "base maps," turn on "satellite" so you can orient yourself better. And then here's the exposure layers. So here it refers to as the "sea level rise exposure area." So you can click on "3.2 feet," and you see what you get. And you can zoom in and look at any particular location. Now one other thing I would really like to point out is that this is the composite layer. But in some cases, erosion is a bigger issue. And in other cases, high wave flooding is going to be a bigger issue. So, if you like, you can actually look at the individual models. So here we are, we can turn on the 3.2 feet sea level rise annual high wave model. So now we're just looking at the wave model. Or, we could turn that off, and open the

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erosion model, and click on 3.2 feet and look at the projections of erosion. So these are the individual models. You can look at them combined or separately, and you'll get different information by looking at them that way. So if there's ever any questions about how to use this, or what the models mean, or the assumptions, or any background information, you can always give me a call. Let's see. . . Uh-oh. . . Now, just some quick summary results from that Statewide Sea Level Rise Report and ana..., analyzing that new exposure data, those models we have. This shows you the acres of land per island that fall now within that sea level rise exposure area. So, for Maui, it's 3,000 acres, and you can see Molokai and Lanai are, are parsed out separately here. So, a, a whole lot on, on Molokai as well. This is miles of road for each island within the sea level rise exposure area. So, for Maui island, it's almost 20 miles of road fall within the sea level rise exposure area. And we've analyzed it. Most of that, a big portion of that, is in West Maui. And then finally, this is somewhat of an estimate of economic loss. However, it's limited to the value of the land and the structures on the land. This does not include the value of infrastructure, like roads and other facilities, which would probably raise this number enormously. But just the land and structures is about \$3.2 billion for Maui, \$280 million for Molokai, and \$10 million for Lanai. And, of course, you can see, based on high density and lots of development on Oahu, the figures are, are understandably higher there. Some of what we're doing with this information now is working. . . I get to. . . it's really great 'cause I'm now really cooperatively working with the Long-Range Planning Department as we try to integrate this information into the community planning process. So that actually started with Molokai. As the Molokai Community Plan process was going forward, we did not yet have the Statewide Report and the Viewer. But we did have information about sea level rise and coastal hazards. So, for the first time ever, the Molokai Community Plan actually has a whole chapter dedicated to coastal hazards. Of course, the information is evolving, and so are our planning strategies. So for West Maui, I was able to work with the Planning Department on writing a technical resource paper dedicated to climate change and sea level rise, which is on their website at "we are Maui." And. . . so you can get more specific information about West Maui. But I want to point out, since we're talking about infrastructure, here are a few of the planning strategies that we identified in this resource paper, which includes conducting detailed vulnerability assessments for existing critical infrastructure. So, we looked at those economic figures, but they were only for land and buildings, we really do need to take a look at all of our infrastructure, and try to understand their vulnerabilities. . . you know, monetize that, and think about the adaptive solutions as we go forward. We also suggest commissioning additional sea level rise modeling for 6 feet or more of sea level rise for critical infrastructure. So, the modeling was not done for 6 feet of sea level rise. But, the Honolulu Climate Commission and the State Climate Commission is suggesting that, again, these high-value, long-lived, low-risk tolerant structures, probably consider higher levels of sea level rise. . . and integrate sea level rise into capital improvement planning for public facilities, and inventory waste water systems. That could be private and public affected by sea level rise. That's just a few of the strategies, there are more in the Report. And then finally, try to get through this really quick, but everybody always asks, well what do we do? So this slide is meant to kind of show you the range of options we have. There aren't that many tools in the toolbox, and we're all trying to put our heads together

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to, to think about what the tools are and how to use them most wisely. But this is my version of that. From one end of the spectrum is do nothing and let things fall into the ocean, which is not an ideal in most cases, to the other end of the spectrum, which is, you know, building permanent armoring, knowing that that, of course, has. . .comes with severe consequences. And so, from a coastal management perspective, it's the things in between that are kind of considered the preferred strategies. But there is never a one-size-fits-all solution and every site really has to be looked at and analyzed for conditions, and then potential responses as well.

So, a little on this, I'm gonna talk, just real quick, about setbacks, I'm gonna show one example, example of armoring on County infrastructure, and then an example of dune restoration, and then I will turn it over to Jim. So I do want to point out, Maui was the first County to establish erosion-based setbacks, that was in 2003. At the time, it was very, very progressive and proactive. But, we now have much more information about these future conditions with sea level rise. So this is how it works. We have a formula, it's 50 years, which at the time, was suggested to be the life expectancy of a structure along the shoreline, times the annual erosion hazard rate. This is based on those maps that I showed, this is historic erosion only. Plus, a, a factor for a minimum setback. So if your erosion rate was 0, you'd have 0 times 50, which would be 0, plus 25 feet. So in some cases, you could end up with a small setback, around 25 feet. So obviously, now with the information we currently have, there's an opportunity to refine this, and consider sea level rise in the formula. And the Department was working on that for a number of years, and then it got put on hold, because we knew the Sea Level Rise Report was being developed with a new erosion model. We now have that erosion model, it's the red line I showed you in the Sea Level Rise Viewer, and so the Planning Department has proposed changes to the shoreline, shoreline rules, which would adopt that red line as the new erosion setback. So, I'll leave it to the Department to elaborate on that further, if, if there are questions. And, and backed up by this proclamation was passed, or issued by the Mayor in February of 2018, so it's been almost a year now. And one of the things that was suggested in this proclamation, well, it accepted the Statewide Report, recognized the 3.2-foot SLR-XA, and said, one of the things we should do is consider amending the shoreline rules to incorporate sea level rise and to the determination of setbacks. So that was one of the drivers. And then this Council, or the last Council, passed a companion resolution to this. And, since we're focusing on infrastructure, I just wanted to show one example of how responses have gone. This is, as you guys probably know, the Kahului-Wailuku Wastewater Treatment Facility. This photograph was taken around 2011. This was the existing rock revetment that was built at the time that the facility was built. But the remaining shoreline, the, the rest of the shoreline remained unarmored, and has fairly high rates of erosion. So, before my time, I came here into this role in 2010. Prior to that, decisions were made by the County to go ahead and armor this shoreline to protect this critical facility. But, there was a lot of mitigation that went into the process. So this is actually as the infrastructure was being built. The original proposal was to continue this revetment along the same line, right out here, actually in, almost essentially in the water. But, ultimately through the EIS process, a decision was made was to push it as landward as possible. So these are the injection wells you see here along the shoreline. And, what

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was done, was a rock revetment was buried in the sand and the beach. So this was trenched out, excavated, the rocks were put in the trench, and re-covered with sand. So if you go to the shoreline today, you can't see the revetment. However, erosion will continue, and one day, that rock revetment will become exposed. We did the best we could. Along with that project, and one of the things we were able to do that I, you know, it's, it's kind of one of those things, you make the best of the situation. So we embarked on a dune restoration project there to at least help strengthen the stability of the beach and hopefully reduce erosion going forward. So there were a lot of invasive vegetation that were removed, and we replaced that with these native plants, which includes morning glory and akiaki grass, or puhuehue and aki gra..., aki grass. And so the condition of the shoreline is fairly good today, although again, erosion continues. And if you go into the Sea Level Rise Viewer and you look at the exposure area around the wastewater treatment facility, this is the 3.2-foot sea level rise exposure area, and here is the wastewater treatment facility. Here's the existing revetment and the pond. So the one very notable thing is that eventually, this wastewater facility may be permanently surrounded by water. And then finally, one of, one of the really great programs we have here on Maui, is that we have had in the past a very active dune restoration program. So protecting and managing our dunes is one of the more proactive things we can do to keep our beaches healthy, and they provide nature's version of hazard mitigation, along with other ecosystem services. So, our beaches, they respond seasonally to high waves. And if we have healthy dunes versus degraded dunes, we have a buffering system, something to supply the beach with sand during those events. We are the only County in the State that has a law, it's in our Code, cannot grade primary coastal dunes. So that is very proactive. And then we have a program to restore and manage them. So this is Paia Park, so one of our County parks on the North Shore. This is a project I worked on with the Paia Youth and Cultural Center and the South Maui volunteers. You can see the condition of the shoreline here before. The once-existing dune had basically been demolished just by use and foot traffic and lack of vegetation. And so when we would get seasonal high waves, they would flow into the park, deposit sand in the park, and around the shower, so we worked. . . County Parks was a part of this project as well. We established new access pathways and dune restoration signage and added in native vegetation. So this is, this is the condition of the shoreline today. The work is ongoing, and the youth center actually manages the dune with the children at the youth center, it's a really great program. And we've gained a lot of topography in those coastal dunes and the, the impacts during the high wave season are not nearly as substantial as they were in the past. So a really good story. We have lots of examples in South Maui as well, and some in West Maui, including these shoreline access boardwalks that provide access for everyone, including being ADA accessible, and then help also protect our coastal dunes there. So I will turn it over to Jim now and he's going to, to wrap it up and conclude for us.

MR. BUIKA: So as you can. . .so as you can see in your handout, before I introduce myself, this is the last slide, so. That's helpful. And again, before I introduce myself, just to tag onto what Tara stated with the Sea Level Rise Viewer, you know I'm an, I'm an old school kind of guy, and even I can. . .I'm getting pretty comfortable with the Sea Level Rise Viewer. And as a regulator that does permits, first thing I do is I go to the Sea Level

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Rise Viewer and look at where this development is being placed and often advise the applicant that what you are doing is not so good or maybe you wanna move it over here, or it, it's a tremendous permitting tool, or awareness-building tool to look to the future. So we can also apply this, obviously, to our County infrastructure. And again, before, just concluding here, I'd like to just recognize the work that Tara Owens has been doing. We're kind of in a unique position to have a good technical advisor for the Planning Department and, although she works with Council, and also community, she is a tremendous resource to County Parks and Rec., Department of Environmental Management, Emergency Management Agency also. So Tara's expertise is spread thin and I try to grab her in the Planning Department as much as I possibly can. So, she's a tremendous asset. And also, again before I introduce myself, we have a new Shoreline Planner, who's with us in the audience, Keanu Lau Hee, from Emergency Management Agency. Some of you may know her, so we're...she has excellent place-based experience and has been doing environmental mitigation planning for a number of years, so we're very, very lucky to have Keanu on board also. And the other person that rounds out our team is Jeffrey Dack, who's not here today. He's our supervisor, and that's pretty much it for the shoreline. We do have other planners in the Planning Department that work special management area permits as well as our management team and other divisions.

So, by way of introduction, my name is Jim Buika, and I've been in the Planning Department almost 12 years now. I've been on Maui for 16 years, my background is in emergency management. I worked with Federal Emergency Management Agency for 13 years in San Francisco, and did service Hawaii, all of the various hazards, components. I moved here to become part of the management team for the Pacific Disaster Center for 5 years before moving over to the County. I have a master's degree in geology, so from all of the hazard work and then getting back to the coastline, it's kind of come full circle. And it's great to be in this position and have an influence on beginning some good, proactive planning here in, in Maui County. So, what I'd like to say is, basically to start with a, a no-brainer, just a easy statement that everyone really understands is that, much of our planning in the past has been very reactive in nature, it still is reactive in nature, and especially on the shoreline, it's not working very well. So we're doing as much as we can through our Planning Director, Michele, and, and Tara and I, to, to begin to shift the, the direction of shoreline planning to more proactive in nature, looking at a beach cell rather than parcel by parcel permitting and processing, because it's not working, you know. So we need to take a bigger picture, and that's really where my appeal to the, to the Council, trying to find an interception with how the Council can help us here to promote proactive planning. So, just these three bullets, and I'll conclude. The Council's role and authority in coastal zone management. Unfortunately, the Council has a very limited direct role in shoreline planning/coastal zone management, because our, our Charter under Section 8-8.4 authorizes our three planning commissions for all actions in the SMA and for all shoreline area permits. So the Council doesn't directly see a lot of what's going on, it's really at the Planning Commission where, where these issues constantly come up, and the Council just doesn't have that much intersection with the developmental permits. So it really is great to have the Chair and different committees to invite us to keep you guys abreast of what

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is happening along the shoreline, and today we're just hitting the very tip of the iceberg on a lot of the issues. So if there's any topic you are interested in more in depth, we certainly can come back and, and share with you. We can also take you out on site visits, if you get the heebie-jeebies in this room and need to get outside, we're always available. So...and we've had a few of you out on, on site here to, to see actually what's happening. So primarily, your role in the shoreline is funding and, and legislation, and I'd just like to point out four points under "2." here, under our "Council Accomplishments." I think, well, in the last few years, we've had four very good accomplishments with the Council. First, we, Kelly King, parlayed pretty much the...looked at the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Viewer Report and Adaptation Report into a Sea Level Rise Resolution. So the Council did adopt the recommendations from the Sea Level Rise Report that came out in Hawaii for the entire State. So that's a powerful tool, now that we can move towards those recommendations and through Michele, our Director, and our team work, we are adopting larger setbacks and looking seriously at the nine recommendations in that report, obviously using the Sea Level Rise Viewer. Back in the 2016 budget, the Kahana Bay Sand Study, through Riki Hokama and some of the Councilmembers here, we did ask for some money to look at...to proactively look at searching for sand offshore of Kahana Bay, and that study, through Council, is an absolute game changer in how we are working with our shoreline, because most of the sand that was on these beaches is...has moved just offshore in most cases. And so the idea being, rather than having to sea wall in or rev..., put in revetments to protect threatened development, we now have a very viable option that is being pursued right now for Kahana Bay. So this Kahana Bay Study has...we found 400,000 cubic yards of beach-quality sand and we, we will be able to renourish Kahana Bay, make it into a very viable, vibrant beach system again. So that's...we're right in the middle of that. And these last two accomplishments...we have a Special Management Area Revolving Fund that was promoted by Elle Cochran and voted unanimously, where we take, I think it's the fines and the fees from SMA violations and in the applications, and we can keep that money to use for important priority activities on the, on the shoreline. So that's like the very beginning of, you know, my vision is really, is, we haven't been putting money into our shoreline for the past 20, 30 years really actively, and it's...maybe it's not a capital improvement program, but it would be great if we could have our Council, after they go through the 13 different other capital improvement programs, ask the question "What are we doing for our shorelines this year? You know, what's the priority, what funding do we need in our budget?" So that's...I just throw that out there as an idea, because, we do...we have gotten to the point where if we don't proactively deal with our shoreline in the next five years, we're going to lose more and more of our precious ecosystems to protect at-risk development. So we're really at a tipping point, where we need your attention and input and support to what we're doing on Maui shorelines. It's ubiquitous Statewide, the problem, as you know. And then an amazingly important ordinance was passed at the very end, shepherded by Yuki Lei Sugimura, the Community Facilities District Ordinance, and this is kind of a special improvement ordinance. Again, this was passed unanimously, and this allows for large groups of homeowners or private entities to hui up and actually, working in a partnership with the County to create a funding mechanism for some of these projects. And so we will be coming back to you more on this in the future, just give you a little tickler on this.

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But we're trying to. . .we're attempting to work with Kahana Bay Steering Committee, the 10 parcels and about 15 condos up there, to hui them up to pay for about a \$15 million beach nourishment project, where they would end up basically taxing them..., themselves, which is a great way to go. There is tremendous interest from Napili Bay, the five, six condos along the coast there, that Napili Bay has been becoming very, very narrow. And I'll hit my last point, proactive planning, we can learn. . .we can take what we've learned from Kahana Bay experience over the last four, five years, and we are parlaying it into trying to renourish Napili Bay, and then we have another bay in between those two, between Kahana and Napili, which is Keoni Nui Bay, where Kahana Sunset is. They're experiencing tremendous erosion there. And then the northern end of Halama Street that is not sea walled in, they are very interested in doing the same type of project to bring back the beach. So I'll end there and turn it back over to the Chair. Thanks for the time and certainly, we are at your disposal and if you do want to do a site visit, keep us in mind. Mahalo, Chair.

**. . . END PRESENTATION . . .**

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Buika. Members, before we opening. . .open the floor for questioning, I'd like to recognize Ms. McLean with the Planning Department. So, Members, now, if you have any questions for the panel. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for that presentation. I think it's probably the fourth or fifth time I've seen it, but it never gets old. It, it's really important. So I have three things I wanted to say. . .talk about. One is, Jim, when you mentioned about shoreline funding and CIP money in this next budget, I'm gonna throw that back to you for proactive planning and ask you to work with the Mayor to get that in the budget, because you know, what we're. . .what. . .our first reaction is to that, to the Mayor's budget. So, I think this is something that we need to have you work with the Department right now while they're formulating their budget, so that when it gets to us, that information is in there. The second thing I wanna talk about is looking at the setbacks now. My understanding, and this is a specific project in Kihei, my understanding is that there's still the intention of building on the makai said of South Kihei Road as an extension to the. . .what we used to call the Maui Lu, I'm not sure what that project's being called now, but there's still an intention to, to develop that side of it. And how do we get that out of their plans? You know, pursuant to everything we just talked about, there should be no construction on the makai side of South Kihei Road. Can you answer that one next?

MR. BUIKA: To, yeah, we're talking about Maui Lu, it's the Hilton Development there with South Kihei Road going right through there. Hopefully all of you know about it, where the dune comes across the road, where all the ironwoods there, and it's a natural dune environment, right. To the credit of the Maui Lu and the Planning Department, or. . .this, what is going on there, even though it's not perfect right now, it is, I think, the very first watershed permit where we, we did, where the County of Maui did require dune restoration. And the permits, I do believe, for that project, go back to 1999, 2000. So there's a, you know, a 20-year history with this project. Tara and I have met with

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the ownership and we explained to them. . .that it would be much better to move everything. I mean they are moving, they did move a, a building or two out of that area. I think they're going to have a pool there, and they're going to rehab a clubhouse on that side--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: On the, on the makai side?

MR. BUIKA: --on the makai side. So neither of them are habitable structures, which is good. And. . .but that, that clubhouse is like, it's 25 feet, there are two revetments there. . .very, very close. We have written a letter to the Hilton explaining that. . .you could mitigate further by doing exactly what you're saying. It's. . .so we've tried. It's, you know, to change the permits becomes problematic sometimes, and I agree with you 100% that we shouldn't have anything on that side. It would be. . .I mean, we could take out, in, in my opinion, I told them we could take out all those revetments. I mean, ideally, what you wanna do there is create an easement for South Kihei--this will never happen--but create an easement for South Kihei Road around the backside of that property there, and take out South Kihei Road right through the middle of the property where the dune wants to go over and create a beautiful dune complex beach, where nature wants to go. But we tried. . .and the project moves forward as is, so--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, yeah, I think that's something that we have to work on, and in light of all this new information, because this information was not available to us when those permits were given out. And to me, it's an exercise in futility for them to go ahead with a 20-year-old permit against the wishes of nature, basically. But anyway, thank you for, for your efforts on that. The community continues to question it, and I think they're going to get more and more involved. The third thing I wanted to talk to you about was about the Community Facilities District, which is something I've been working on with the Maalaea Village Association. So I just, and if you note, I, I think they've been working with part. . .somebody in the Planning Department, it was Dave Raatz before, but now he's with Office of Council Services. But, you know, they're looking into a wastewater treatment facility, funded with the CFD, for those condos. So, I'm not sure who there would be involved in it, but it's a little bit of an issue, given the sea level rise stuff that's coming up. Because it needs to be out of that inundation zone too. So that's something that, that probably your, your Department, you folks will be needing to advise on, is location for that, if it moves forward. There's a, there's a lot of footwork that has to be done, but this may be the first wastewater treatment facility that we see with that CFD model, and it, it's a reaction to the Department of Health advising that they're going, not going to approve any more injection wells. So they have to get away from using those.

MR. BUIKA: Excellent, yeah. I'm, I'm familiar with the situation, and just to comment, Curt de Crinis, who I wanted to introduce you to, is, he's not here, he had to leave--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I know Curt--

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MR. BUIKA: --for doctors. Right. So Curt. . .and, and anyhow, we can, any way we can help you, we certainly can get involved. I know they do want to move from that septic system there to. . .or, or it's an aging system, right? It's just, it's reached its maximum value and needs to be replaced--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

MR. BUIKA: --pretty much.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Some, some of the condos have to have immediate replacement, but they all want to move forward together--

MR. BUIKA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --so they're afraid that some of them are going to be spending some money--

MR. BUIKA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --immediately and then they have to get taxed on top of that, so--

MR. BUIKA: You've heard of the term "herding cats," right?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

MR. BUIKA: Well, when you deal with all these condos, me and Tara have been herding cats in Kahana Bay with a thousand unit owners for the last three or four years, yeah. But these various angels have come along to help us out and, and make it happen, so you just gotta be persistent--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

MR. BUIKA: --and any way we can help you--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. BUIKA: --keep us posted.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Members, any other questions for the panel? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. And thank you for this subject matter. You know I'm, I'm pretty. . .unfortunately, I'm pretty intimately familiar with all those sites and pictures, and if I sound frustrated or anything, it's nothing on your efforts. But I really believe that the County. . .I mean this is, this is happening, whether we like it or

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not, or despite any of our efforts. And I, I really think that the County needs to lead the way in managed retreat, at least for our infrastructure and our facilities. And what would be the steps that we take to tear down the pavilion at Baldwin immediately? When I started on the beach in 2001, I remember the storage, which you, I believe, called the "comfort station," being there. And there was also a shower that was beyond that, and you know, one day I, I got transferred to Baldwin, and, and the storage wasn't there, the shower wasn't there, and that was just within five years, I believe. And so, I think that we need to publicly let everyone know that the County is taking this seriously and we're leading the way, we're tearing things down that are near the shoreline and were retreating and, and make a big deal about it, because that's what needs to happen. We cannot wait 30 years. As a friend once said, "30 years ago was 1990, and that doesn't seem very long at all." So 30 years in the future. . .we're not gonna be the only ones dealing with this. We're, we're like the third in line. Oahu's gonna have the biggest impact in financial, and they have the majority of the resources. So we really need to get ahead of the curve on everything while tourism is still a viable thing. Moving Highway 30, if, if we don't address that immediately, then tourism on the west side is done. And from what I understand, we. . .Maui brings in a lot, and for Maui west side and south side bring in the most of the County, so what can we do to expedite getting our own infrastructure out of the inundation zones? I understand that the private owners are in a difficult situation, but from our sea level rise symposium, the main takeaway that I got was it's a moral hazard to use public funds to address private property interests when we have so much public interest that's beyond our resources already. So what can we do to start moving our own resources back as fastly and expeditiously as possible?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Buika? Or, Ms. Owens?

MS. OWENS: I'm not sure that I can actually answer that question, but I did want to offer that at Baldwin, the County now has acquired the land all the way from, from Baldwin at the mission there to Paia Park, and right now there is underway a master planning process for that whole region. But it also includes Baldwin Park proper, even though that's not County land, it still belongs to A&B. So, County Parks is leading that effort there. I, I serve that process as an advisor, like I do on many other County projects. There is a technical advisory committee that is. . .includes many of the local folks who have lived in that area for, you know, decades or more, generations. They recently had a, an advisory group meeting, and it was really interesting to hear their responses to how to manage that park area and that land and many of them brought up these issues with sustainability and sea level rise. So it was a discussion. I don't know the answer to how quickly the, the Parks Department can react, and actually move the pavilion. But I'm. . .I know there's at least recognition that that's a necessary step. And it makes complete sense, like you say, for the County to sort of set an example and lead the way.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Along those similar lines, I attended a community meeting about 4790 area, near Kaopala Bay and, you know, the options that were given to my

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community, it was. . . I was kind of puzzled, because the representative seemed to say, you know, there's the do nothing approach, there's the revetment, or the wall, and it didn't make sense. Because when we were, when the County was going for an emergency permit just to build, like, a 12-foot rock wall because of the recent damage from the storms, they didn't get the emergency permit. They were forced to do the sandbags. So I was wondering, like when you come to our community and you give these option. . . or not you, but, consultant. . . like, just saying like, "Oh, would you like to do nothing? Would you like to have a rock wall revetment? Would you like to have a, a wall across the whole bay?" It's kind of disingenuous to say that that is an option without saying that you need to get permits from the State OCCL, who wouldn't even allow a 12-foot armoring situation. So, you have. . . I have my community thinking, like, yeah, let's do the rock wall, you know? And it's, it's not even really a feasible alternative as far as I'm concerned, because we couldn't even get that little 12, 12-foot section. So, in all these areas, I think we just really need to emphasize pull back, pull away, and lead the way on that. And I was wondering if you had any involvement or any advice on how to go about being more consistent in that message.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, real quickly, if you hear some banging on the ceiling, I've just been informed that there's been. . . work being done on the roof. So, Mr. Buika, continue.

MR. BUIKA: Okay, at least it's not termites.

COUNCILMEMBERS: . . . *(chuckle)* . . .

MR. BUIKA: Well, I was involved in the Kaopala Bay, I'm aware of the meeting. Public Works did host that meeting, I do believe, with you. The original application that came in from the consulting company was to put in small boulders and to concrete it all in and the feedback from the community was no, put in larger boulders in the pukas and that would blend in better and it would solve this--again, it's a temporary emergency solution. They are doing an environmental impact statement for the entire bay to understand what to do. Again, from a proactive planning, permitting point of view, we're going to look from, you know, including the Robinson's property and up and down here, John Seebart's area. So, in the County's defense, we did issue an emergency permit for exactly what the community had asked for. So the State kind of overrode us because some of it went out into the water. In my opinion the sandbags do not make sense there, just exactly what you're saying. So we do work very closely with the State DLNR Office of Conservation Coastal Lands on as many of these things as possible. When they are out in the water, it's, it's a combination of permits. They just felt that was the natural process for an emergency temporary permit, to put sandbags out there. It's like, you know, I disagreed with it, but we're trying to work with public works. And we. . . so again we did the best we can. I don't know what. . . why the State made that decision, maybe Tara, Tara had some conversations with them that can maybe shed some light--

MS. OWENS: We're, we're really getting into the details and, and, and I, I don't know if that's valuable to the whole Council. I mean, lots of these projects have histories and nuances, so it, it's always hard to convey, you know, how things evolve. But the State's

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perspective was that the reason they will not allow boulders is because that is inconsistent with how they treat other private properties. They will not allow private properties to install boulders; therefore, they could not let the County government install boulders. And so the current approach is to install sandbags as a temporary solution because they can be identified and removed. That was their perspective. Right or wrong.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Owens. Can we move. . .we'll move on to, to other Members. Mr. Molina. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon, Ms. Owens and Mr. Buika. Thank you for that very sobering presentation on shoreline erosion, certainly very educational. And what really hit home was seeing that picture of the pavilion at Baldwin Beach Park. I can sort of remember as a much, much younger person going there and not being educated enough to understand what was going on. My colleague from West Maui, Ms. Paltin, certainly brings up some good issues. Just to follow up with regards to the--maybe I missed it in the presentation--do you have an update on the situation with Kahana and what they're doing? And also Ms. King's District, Kihei, they've got a really wonderful, proactive volunteer initiative for dune and sand restoration. Are you looking at other areas in Maui County of getting programs like that going, if you don't have any at, at the moment? So, it's a two-part question, so--

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Owens.

MS. OWENS: I really appreciate the question, especially about the dunes. Because, so that. . .the dune program in South Maui is run by the South Maui Volunteers, or they sometimes refer to themselves as "Ho..., Hoaloha Aina." They've been doing this for decades now. I do serve as their advisor, but they, after decades of work, are experts in their own right and most often know what to do on their own. So they implement--single-handedly implement--all these extensive and, and amazingly impactful dune restoration and management initiatives. We have tried to expand to other areas. So one of the examples I showed was at Paia Park. We have some examples at Kanaha Park, and we have a couple of examples on the west side as well. But, that whole program is run by Bob and Lis Richardson, who are aging out of the program. And three years ago, they said you've got three years; two years ago, they told me two; and now it's at the end of the year, they are re-retiring. There is nobody within their ranks that is going to take leadership of that program. And this is one of the things that I lose sleep on at night, probably the most, because it's one of the most proactive and non-controversial programs we have. And one of the things that I have made a recommendation on is that we maybe try to fund a beach. . .a dune management coordinator going forward that would take the place of Bob and Lis, manage the volunteers, extend these projects island-wide, where, where applicable, and keep this program running. So thank you for that question.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Molina.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, that's certainly some good ideas. Mr. Buika.

MR. BUIKA: And I'll just add in that we've taught Bob and Lis and the volunteers that everything they do needs a permit. . .

ALL: . . .(chuckle). . .

MR. BUIKA: . . .and they all comply. They all learned.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Sugimura, did you have any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, Mr. Chair--

MS. OWENS: One more--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --I had one more question, sorry.

MS. OWENS: --one more question on Kahana.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes, please.

MS. OWENS: So, you're asking about the current status there? Yes, okay. So we. . .there's. . .long story short, years' worth of work to get the nine condominiums, and then, then there's one. . .a Hawaiian property there, get everybody to collaborate on sort of a regional erosion mitigation solution. They did that, they signed a cost share agreement, they're, they funded an environmental impact statement, which costs almost nearly a million dollars. That environmental impact statement is, is underway now. There's a consulting team working on that. That. . .the environmental impact statement preparation notice will actually go out publicly soon. They will have to look at all the range of alternatives, in terms of responses from, from, you know, restoring sand on the beach by itself, to restoring sand with other types of structures, like groins, to retreat, to, you know, sea walls. They'll have to explore all those options and, and come up with a preferred app..., approach. Based on the original sand study, the coastal engineers tell us that because of this site and because of the conditions, likely, the preferred solution will involve something like some type of groin structures in order to make the project have any kind of longevity. But all that is being explored, so there will be lots of public meetings. We've had many, probably 40 or more in the past, out in West Maui. So you'll be seeing more on that soon and then Jim menti..., mentioned the Community Facilities District. That'll be an important part of it. It's an expensive project, so there has to be a funding mechanism and that is being looked at as the way to potentially fund the project by the, the owners taxing themselves. So that will be coming to the Council, too, if this continues to evolve.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Owens

MR. BUIKA: Yeah, just one additional comment for--

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CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, Mr. Buika.

MR. BUIKA: --Councilmember Paltin. The team that's doing the EIS is reaching out to the community doing some interviews with a lot of the local stakeholders this month and next month. They're scheduling those just for, for your information, so, it's part of the EIS.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Ms. Paltin, you had a follow up? And then Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Buika. Wondering too about the waterline and the sewage line. Are there any efforts being made to move that off of the lower road?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Buika.

MR. BUIKA: That, that is. . .that comes up often, and it's a Public Works issue. The Public Works does have a phased plan to improve. . .are you talking in Kahana Bay or, or Kaopala or. . .?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kaopala area.

MR. BUIKA: Yeah, I think that's. . .should be addressed by Public Works. They're fully aware of the, the, the risk there, and I think they're trying to mitigate as quickly as possible in that area. So, yeah, thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you for your leeway, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. Great discussion. I wanna open up with. . .the one statement I wanna say is just, the last budget session or, you know, two budget sessions, the whole discussion came up about funding your position. So I want the new Members to know that we should fund your position.

MS. OWENS: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And, and I think that at the time when it came up, I didn't really understand what you did. Or I was just, you know, open to. . .and we heard a lot of testimony from, from you and, you know, others as to why you're important. But I think over the years that I've been here, I can truly say we're grateful. So, thank you very much. And I just wanna publicly say that, that we participate in it--

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MS. OWENS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --and I know you're also funded by University of Hawaii, right?

MS. OWENS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Isn't, isn't that. . .there's a joint partnership. So thank you very much. I was gonna ask about Kahana Bay, because that also for the last two years, I've been somewhat hearing about them through the budget session, and then keeping and, keeping in touch with what's going on through the process of getting the CFD (Community Facilities District) process through the Council. And I just, I just wanna. . .I saw Curt de Crinis here and I was hoping to talk to him 'cause I wanted to get a follow up as to what the County needs to do to help you. So I just wanna offer that to you, publicly. I know that I've been. . .I listened in on your condominium association meeting that you had, and I, I wanna get, you know, like all. . .whoever we need to move this forward. 'Cause it's gonna get to a point that Council needs to take action. The other thing I wanna say is that you're lucky to have Keanu to join you, I didn't realize that she left Emergency Management. So this is an announcement to me. She's excellent. Her commitment, the amount of hours that she worked, every time we had an emergency, I think you'll, you'll appreciate her level of commitment. And then. . .question is, you mentioned the bays that needed help, like Kahana Bay is, which is Napili, Halama Street, north end of Halama Street?

MR. BUIKA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: As well as Keoni Nui Bay?

MR. BUIKA: Keoni Nui Bay--

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Where, where is that?

MR. BUIKA: --which is where, that's in Napili where Kahana Sunset is.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. BUIKA: Most people don't know Keoni Nui Bay because they did not have shoreline access down there, but as part of the Kahana Sunset permits and rezoning that the Council did do, they did commit \$60,000 of their own money to, to create a public shoreline access. So that was one positive project. But, however, the bay has severe erosion problems also.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So do you recommend, just. . .I think probably Kaanapali Beach, you know, that whole resort, they also have been accumulating their own funding as an organization to take care of problems like this that come up. But, do you

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think that, based upon the knowledge that you have, you and Tara and Michele McLean, that the Council should be looking at this more? Instead of, instead of piecemeal, that we should be looking at this side of the island or, or somehow in a more regional way? Or do we need to wait for the residents to come forward and say hey, we have a problem, or. . .what do you recommend?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Buika.

MR. BUIKA: I think four bays is enough to start with right now. Those are the most at-risk bays. I mean, there is a process for doing that. Tara and I could rank the, the at-risk nature of every single bay in all of Maui. Tara manages the whole North Shore for the Planning Department. She knows it backwards and forwards. There is. . .there are at-risk areas on the North Shore. We do have a beach management plan, and the whole idea is. . .I realize from my planning experience with Kahana Bay. . .is that what we need to do is before waiting 'til these. . .for this severe erosion to impact development on these bays, and, and all they want to do is put riprap in, in front of their structures to protect themselves. We need to be doing these environmental impact statements ahead of time, proactively, a few years in, in advance. Because right now, we, we kinda sorta know what we wanna do in Kahana Bay, we just have to go through the entire environmental impact statement. And it's critically important to do it, but we're losing time. . .and it's expensive, and so, I have lots of ideas on how to do that. We actually have a. . .I have a Senate Bill 828 and a House Bill 396, which is entitled "Coastal Erosion Proactive Adaptation Plan," which will create a, an e-permit system and do these EIS' ahead of time through State-funded programs. So, SB 828 and HB 396.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Buika.

MR. BUIKA: So, I'll leave it there.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member, you had a follow-up question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: One question for the Committee to ask. Can you find out in the SMA Revolving Fund, how much money is there. . .I think it's a newly-formed fund, so what are the anticipated funds?

MS. McLEAN: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, you have it?

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. McLean?

MS. McLEAN: Thank you, Chair. The ordinance that created the SMA Revolving Fund doesn't take effect until July 1<sup>st</sup> of this calendar year.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay, for the new fiscal year.

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MS. McLEAN: So, I, I'm pretty sure that's the date that it's to take effect, so funds haven't been put into it yet. That'll start in July.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member--

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Well prepared. Yes.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. McLean. Member Kama, did you have any questions for the panelists? I have a couple of quick questions for Mr. Buika. When we are looking at the DLNR and knowing that the State has jurisdiction along our shorelines, what is the, the difference between the State's responsibilities and the County's responsibilities when it comes to shorelines?

MR. BUIKA: It's. . .thank you for that question. It, it's pretty much a similar responsibility, it's just a jurisdictional boundary, which makes the shoreline permitting and authorization so complex. It's the high wash of the waves, is the County, is the State jurisdiction. So whenever we go in the water to do something, it, it is State Conservation Land District, and the County is mauka of the high wash of the waves. So, obviously there's a fuzzy zone in the middle there, and that's when we, we try to pick up the phone and talk and coordinate as, as much as possible. So, what we often do is. . .all a permit is, is nothing more than best management practices, right? So all we're doing is, we're telling the applicant, client, whoever wants to take some action, how to do it to preserve our coastal ecosystem, our marine resources, in the best way possible. So I have lists of all of the State best management practices, and often I will have the applicant go through that list and put them all in, just so that the State is covered when a project is near the water, just, just to cover the coastal ecosystem as best as possible. So--

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

MR. BUIKA: --so, we work closely. Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: My second question was, is there any coastal management ordinances to protect some of these, these shoreline areas?

MR. BUIKA: I mean, there's the Kahekili. . .I mean there are more, they're more marine reserves, the, the Kahekili fish, the sanctuary, there are sanctuaries. We don't have any ordinances, I do believe. Tara, any idea? I'll defer to Tara.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Owens.

MS. OWENS: If you're referring to existing ordinances. . .well, again, we have a dune protection system. So in our County Code, in the Grading Code actually, so this was an ordinance at one point. I think it was adopted in 2003. It's in the County Code that you cannot grade a primary coastal dune. So, a long time ago, in the old days, it would just be if

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somebody wanted to improve their view along the coastline, so they'd bulldoze over the dune or it was some other kind of nuisance and that was common practice. So we now have protected dunes, which is a very good, very, very good provision. And then everything else is driven by the County of Maui Shoreline. . .or it's the County of Maui Planning Commission, Special Management Area Rules, and the Shoreline Area Rules. And that actually governs and regulates everything that happens along the coastline. But again that's the authority of the Planning Commission as opposed to the Council. But, being familiar with those rules, and what is and isn't allowed, is, is very useful.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you for that, Ms. Owens. Members, is there any other questions for the panelists? One more?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to kind of throw an idea out there, because I can see these problems happening in the future if we, as we approve developments and then they sit for a while and then they want to go ahead with them and you've got some more climate issues, So it, you know, would it be possible to--maybe this is a question for Planning--but would it be possible to put conditions in there to. . .for developments that, that they are subject to change or some requirement to update EIS documents or EA documents in ten years if the development doesn't happen? Because I'm not sure how. . .you know, I know that we've passed some housing developments where we've given them a five-year window to get started, but I'm really not sure how that happened with that Maui Lu project being able to sit for 20 years before they actually broke ground. I mean, to me it should have been that, that should have been cancelled and then they should have had to come back to us at least after a decade. . .not. . .at the very least after two decades. So anyway, I just kind of wanted to throw that out there, if there's some way, if there's some..., something we can add to an ordinance, or some way we can make a requirement that. . .or we just approve short-term projects, but we, we also have to have a long-term plan when we're approving short-term projects.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. King. Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Can you, can you have--

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, did you want a response? Mr. Buika.

MR. BUIKA: We do have time limits on our SMA permits, but often the applicant will come in for extensions and often we do grant them. That was a very complex permit there, so that's probably the case there. One thing that I, I would like to let everyone know is that in our new rules, we're looking at, you know, the problem is asking a, an applicant, even the County, to do an environmental impact statement ahead of erosion when the problem right now is, why do. . .why spend a million dollars and spend three years studying everything when we can wait 'til erosion gets so close to our structure, we can go to the County and declare an emergency or ask for an emergency permit, and then we put in sandbags. And then the, the State gives them 3 years, we give them 180 days, and they keep coming back for extensions. And those sandbags become permanentized

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almost out there. Sandbags are our new sea walls, I like to say. But. . .so what we are doing in our emergency rules to address that is, if you wanna put sandbags out on our shoreline, you have to com..., you have to commit to the County within 90 days that you will explore--this is in our new rules that aren't codified yet--

MS. OWENS: Proposed. Proposed.

MR. BUIKA: --that we would, that you would explore alternatives with us, and look at all the permits associated with those alternatives for getting rid of that emergency, right? If it's an emergency situation, you should resolve it. So then at 180 days, if they want to. . .which is the length of our emergency permit. . .if they want to keep those sandbags out there, they're going to have to come up with a solution to the County and we will grant them another 180 days to move forward on that solution. If in 360 days, 365 days they, they still need to keep those sandbags out there, they will have to have a, an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment contract underway, and moving forward with looking at alternatives. So we're attempting, through the emergency process, to, to eliminate this. Okay, we got our sandbags now, and we can sit back and just extend and extend and extend rather than finding a solution.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. BUIKA: So that's our proposed--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But can I just. . .Chair--

MR. BUIKA: --in our proposed rules.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --can I just follow up with. . .on the SMA, how, how often does it have to be. . .how long is it good for?

MR. BUIKA: SMA permits are usually good for 3 to 5 years--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So there's been--

MR. BUIKA: --3 to 5 years.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So there's. . .that means--

MR. BUIKA: So there is standard conditions where we have, we have. . .they have to start by a certain date, a certain time, and they have to be completed by a certain time.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, so that means that the Maui Lu's been given at least like 5 extensions? Is that what that means? And that's--

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MR. BUIKA: I assume so.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --it's been 20 years, so, you know, at some point, they should have just cut it off and made them change their plans, I think. But—

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Okay, thanks. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: --Ms. King. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just basically one question with regard, with regards to the purchase of eroding coastal properties as a source for sand that could help replenish our public beaches, have you targeted any specific areas? I know in one of your responses, you mentioned the four bays, I don't know if that's in relation to that. And, now of course, you're well aware of the issue of sand mining that was a topic of conversation. I'm not sure if that may potentially conflict with the County looking at purchasing these eroding coastal properties that could provide sand replenishment. Can you respond to that? And I guess, basically, just what, what are the areas you would basically be targeting? Or properties?

CHAIR SINENCI: Who wants to answer this?

MS. OWENS: I can try to answer. . .if, if I understand your question correctly. The sand we're looking for to restore some of these shorelines is, is coming from offshore. So essentially, as the beach erodes over time, there's a loss from the beach. Often, some of that sand is deposited somewhere in the near-shore area. And then it's just a matter of going and finding it, making sure the quantity's there and the quality is right, and essentially. . .but what beach nourishment is, is recycling that sand back up onto that same system where it came from. In the past, the inland Maui sand had been used in a very limited way for some dune, beach dune and beach nourishment projects. But, it, it wasn't necessarily ideal sand for those purposes anyway, because of the sand quality characteristics. So, really, offshore is where you want to go. And a second part of that is, you know, West Maui is sort of our ground zero for where we're seeing the impacts of sea level rise and beach loss. And part of that is sand supply. The geology of our island varies, as you know, and so, in some places, like, like South Maui, we have a really wide, sandy coastal plain. So you go across South Kihei Road and far beyond, you dig in that soil, it's sand. It's beach sand. It's high-quality dune sand. Same for some parts of North Shore, you know, for Kanaha, through maybe Baldwin, and then it transitions to more clay-based system and bluffs. West Maui is variable. There are some very localized area where there's sand in the system in the backshore area. Kaanapali is one of those areas, and Kapalua Bay, to a limited degree, but lots of other parts of West Maui. Once we. . .we call it a sand-starve system because most of the sand we ever had was what was on the beach, and as it disappears, we transition into this land-based geology. It's what we call alluvium, it's runoff, from the West Maui mountains that's been deposited there. And so it's not a rich supply of sand to supply

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the beaches as, as shorelines retreat in the face of sea level rise. But again, everything is site-specific at. . .every site has to be looked at for these reasons.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

MR. BUIKA: One short comment?

CHAIR SINENCI: Closing--

MR. BUIKA: Okay, yeah. Just to, to add to that, your comment about purchasing properties, that's all the rage is. . .managed retreat, purchasing properties. We hear about it every day from many constituents. And there are many ideas being thrown around. It's, it's at the point of. . .the conversation is still what to do. It's at the rhetorical what to do level, but how to do it is the difficult part that we still have not figured out, and it will take us a number of years. There is a brand-new managed retreat report coming out by Office of Planning any day now. But we're gonna have a conference call on it, similar in. . .well, it's not as big as the Sea Level Rise Viewer or Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Report, but we have focused on it at a Statewide level. So we're beginning to have the serious conversation about how to do that exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, that's good to hear. Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Members, thank you, all very good questions for our panelists. And looking at the time, we've passed our mid-meeting mark. And so we would like to take a quick break for our next presenter. But before we do, we would like to, the Chair would like to. . .if there are no objections, I would like to defer this matter.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, if there are no. . .we don't need a motion for this?

MS. FUJITA: No.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. So with that, we're gonna take a ten-minute break to 3:20. We would like to thank our panelists, Mr. Buika, Ms. Owens, for coming and, and sharing with, with the work that you've been doing.

MR. BUIKA: Thank you, Chair.

MS. OWENS: Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Recess. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 3:07 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 3:20 p.m.**

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .(gavel). . . Members, the February 12, 2019 meeting of the Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee will now reconvene. It is 3:20 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Put your mic closer.

**ITEM EACP-17(1): MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER  
JURISDICTION (COUNTYWIDE POLICY PLAN AND MAUI ISLAND PLAN  
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS) (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR SINENCI: Our second item, Rule 7(B), discussion on Countywide Policy Plan and Maui Island Plan Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Actions within the EACP Committee Subject Matter Jurisdiction. Members, as you know, when the Council Standing Committees were established at the start of this term, each Committee had one or more objectives from the General Plan set forth under this subject matter jurisdiction. The EACP Committee has within its jurisdiction two objectives, one, to protect the natural environment, and two, to preserve local cultures and traditions. We have requested the Department of Planning provide the Committee with a general overview of the County Planning framework, framework, as it relates to environment, agriculture, culture, and historical resources, as these are the matters of the EACP Committee that we'll be dealing with. I've asked that the Members bring with them to the meeting their copy of the Count..., Countywide Policy Plan and the Maui Island Plan. For those Members who may not have a hard copy of the Maui Island Plan, please access it on your electronic devices. We are grateful to have Pam Eaton from the Department here today to assist us. Welcome, Pam. And with that I'll--

MS. EATON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: --yes, and with that, I'll ask Ms. Eaton to, to begin her presentation.

**. . . BEGIN PRESENTATION . . .**

MS. EATON: Thank you, Chair, and aloha to the Committee Members. I wanna thank you all for this opportunity to deliver the presentation. I also wanna especially thank you for highlighting the importance of understanding, by your membership, by your Members, as to how the purview of the Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee should align to the goals, objectives, policies, and actions of the Countywide Policy Plan and the Maui Island Plan. So, thank you for that. I wanna start out by saying, when I was working with, Chair, your staff, in putting this presentation together,

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it's, it's a huge amount of knowledge and information. And thank you for bringing your Countywide Policy Plan and your Maui Island Plans, 'cause those are critically important documents that I'll be referring to. And I'm kinda glad I took this tack, because the previous presentation, which is also critically important to the purview of your Committee, took quite a bit of time, which is great. I think even then it's hard to cover everything that's involved in that aspect. So, today, what I plan to do is part 1 of 2 parts. Part 1, what I'd like to do today is to basically provide you with an overview of how the Maui Island Plan and the Countywide Policy Plan, the general planning framework for Maui County, if you will, with specific reference to the purview of your actual Committee. Part 2, which I've discussed with Chair and your staff is to do that deeper dive into the specific goals, policies, and actions and objectives of your Committee and how that relates. And so right now is basically the actual request that came from the Committee asking us to review this information. So in terms of the planning framework for Maui County, which is important to how you guys are gonna be looking at your agenda items and so forth, with specific reference to environment, agriculture, and cultural resources, I think what's important to understand--and this diagram says an awful lot. And many of you have seen this before, many of you are very familiar with this. Some of you, this may be new, and that's okay. So, basically where we start, we refer to this as the General Plan, and basically these are planning documents that are kind of the core, if you will, the planning framework for Maui County. The first one, that you all have a copy of, is the Countywide Policy Plan, and the Countywide Policy Plan was passed in 2010, but the effort to put it together started in 2003 and there was a very intensive effort. Many of you may have been involved in that effort, with regard to community engagement, in terms of really identifying what is important with regard to specific policies that are gonna frame, basically, not only the Maui Island Plan but also, also the County. . .the Community, Community Plans as well. So that overarching policy document is. . .we refer to the Countywide Policy Plan. That was passed and approved by the County Council in 2010. The next document, which is a regional planning document, really the first regional planning document, is what's referred to as the Maui Island Plan, the MIP. And that, as many of you probably know, and also involved an intensive community engagement and public effort, and that was passed by the County Council in 2012. The Maui Island Plan, as I mentioned, really goes through and identifies. . .which I'll get into in the next couple slides, regional type of issues throughout Ma..., Maui Island. The other component of this planning framework that you guys will become familiar with and be utilizing are the Community Plans. I'm sure many of you are familiar with the Community Plans. And what I'd like to point out in this slide is we've sort of color coded so you can become familiar with the Community Planning Districts and then to the left, where it says Community Plans, that is the date of when the latest Community Plan was passed. I do wanna say happily that we need to amend the Molokai one because in fact, it was passed in 2018, which we can do that, Lanai was passed in 2016 by the County Council, and then to the left, West Maui, Kihei, Wailuku, Makawao, Paia, Hana, those Community Plans. A question I frequently get asked is, who decided the order? And the County Council decided the order, I was not around then. I'm not sure what the rationale was, but they did decide the order, and that is in Resolution 13-13, if you'd like to look into that. So our first document is the Countywide Policy Plan that your Committee asked and staff asked me

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to comment on. And as was mentioned, as you mentioned, Chair, you know, the primary two core themes for the EACP is protect the natural environment and also preserve local cultures and traditions. The reason why I wanted you to bring your document. . .because I don't wanna sit here and read to it from you. . .to you, but I wanted to point out some really important principles that sort of apply to not only the Countywide Policy Plan, also the Maui Island Plan, and through all of our efforts and the updates to the Community Plans. I think they're really critical. There's ten core principles that are located on the screen as well as in the Countywide Policy Plan. They're on page iii. Essentially, getting very specific, core principle number one, "Excellence in the stewardship of the natural environment and cultural resources," and core principal number five, "Honor for all cultural traditions and histories." Obviously, those would directly relate to your specific Committee. In terms of the purpose of the Countywide Policy Plan, and again, you can find those in those beginning pages, essentially the Countywide Policy Plan. . .and this is a direct quote. . ."will provide the policy framework for the development of the Maui Island Plan and the nine Community Plans." I think the thing that's also really important is if you flip back, almost to the very first page, well, ii, and that's the vision statement. When you develop a community plan, or even the Maui Island Plan, what's critically important. . .the first stepping stone, if you will, is the vision. The vision should reflect the values of the community. The vision, by the way, should be created by the community. So to me, looking at this vision, the Countywide Policy Plan vision, is extremely important. Because this should, if you will, cover a lot of the decisions that you make. It should cover a lot of the decisions, quite frankly, that many of these County Council committees make. So I think it's important. . .a lot of times we just flip right by it. . .I think it's really important to take a look at the vision. Now if you take a look at, for example, the Lanai Community Plan vision, the Molokai Community Plan vision, and even now as we're working in West Maui, these visions are very consistent in nature. And I just think it's very, very important to take a look at this vision to understand the consistency in what we're trying to protect. What I also think is really cool. . .or the core principles, which basically look to implementing that vision, and the opening sentence is, "To accomplish our vision, the people of our islands must foster and respect the Aloha Spirit. We must consider the future generations of Maui County and be true to these core principles." The second document that's really important that you guys either have on Granicus or in front of you, is the Maui Island Plan. As I mentioned earlier, the Maui Island. . .whoops. . .the Maui Island Plan functions as a regional plan and addresses the policies and issues that are not confined to just one Community Plan area. These typically would include regional systems, such as transportation, utilities, infrastructure, and growth management for the Island of Maui. Also contained in the Maui Island Plan, which I think is important as you do your Committee work, to look at and become familiar with, is the directed growth. And that's in Chapter 8. As you look at the directed growth chapter, it covers the various sections and regions throughout Maui. In the beginning of each, in the beginning of each section, it makes recommendations with regards to regional facilities that are recommended, that are needed. And again, this is based on the population projections that were developed as part. . .as the. . .of the Maui Island Plan. Finally, a third thing that's very important, are the CIP priorities. And that's also a part of the Maui Island Plan, contained in Chapter 10. I, I do want to point out,

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because Ms. Flammer had asked us to go through this, that with regard to the Maui Island Plan and the Countywide Policy Plan, not wanting to just sit here and read it to you, but I think understanding various things within the Maui Island Plan and the Countywide Policy Plan that relate to you and the work you'll be doing is, is really important. So if you go to chapter 8-9, chapter 8, page 9, again, we have guiding land use principles. And I think the ones that specifically pertain to the work your Committee will be doing. . .the very first guiding land use principal. . .is respect and encourage island lifestyles, cultures, and Hawaiian traditions. The second one, promote sustainable land use planning and livable communities, and even within that the, the sixth item that's mentioned is protecting and enhancing natural environmental resources. And then number 8, encouraging energy and water-efficient design and renewable energy technology. Again, those go back to your Committee's mandate and purview. Number 5 of the guiding land use principles from the Maui Island Plan, protect open space and working agricultural landscapes. Number 6, protect environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources. And then the final guiding land use principal, which, quite frankly, I think, applies to every single County Council Committee, promote community responsibility, empowerment, and uniqueness. And I think that kind of falls with all of the Committees and the important work that they do. So, I mean, that's kind of the "what," and again, we can do a deeper dive, but really, I think what's also important in your work and a lot of what you do is the "why." Why is this so important? For the last year and a half I've been working with West Maui. Of course, this comes up constantly. And so, I think in looking back to your mandate and your purview and what you guys do, as you all, I'm sure, can respect and appreciate, much of what you're doing with the various items you're gonna be addressing is managing change. You just heard an amazing presentation for the past two hours on how critical change is, and I might add, the impacts of sea level rise and the impacts of climate change are not necessarily in our existing community plans. So much of what you'll be faced with is managing change, and decisions that you guys need to make in terms of how you choose to manage that change. And in addition to the environment, protection of the environment and cultural and historic traditions and values, it's looking at renewable energy and looking at things such as, what is the importance of transit? Of taking the bus? How does that relate to the environment in terms of, you know, air emissions and so forth? Even more important is how to preserve community character with regard to cultural and traditional practices. So managing change is important. And I'm sure, as particularly the new Councilmembers are finding out, the critical need to. . .of balance, and the challenge, yeah? Balance. Because in the Community Plans, and in the Maui Island Plan, every single chapter is dealing with things such as, how can we strengthen our economy? How can we create more jobs? How can we build and develop and locate houses that are affordable? How do we preserve our viewsapes, our environment, our critical ecosystems and habitats? And oh, by the way, how do we balance all those values? That's gonna be very, very challenging. So making those tradeoffs and understanding basically what they're grounded in. . .the role of the Maui Island Plan and Countywide Policy Plan. . .is extremely important, and I suspect, will be one of the most challenging things you have before you. Finally, I think what's important to the work that you do, and many of your serve on many other committees, is understanding, identifying, and seeing the connections, the synergies, and the systems. For example,

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last week, we talked in the Multimodal Transportation Committee about transit-oriented development. So as an example, with TOD, TOD talks about affordable housing, the critical importance of that, how it's linked to jobs, and linked to services. . . people who live in those areas. . . to work and then get. . . have access to services. How can they get around, in terms of mobility and transit? And oh, by the way, walking, biking, and so forth is healthy, protects the environment, protects people's health. So, I guess the point I'm making is that several of these many, if not all of the County Council committees, will be dealing with identifying these connections, respecting and understanding them, the synergies, and the systems and how they're all related to one another. And I think that's important to understand that, as you're dealing with your agendas, as you're dealing with those items, and then really understanding the context and what the Maui Island Plan and Countywide Policy Plan says. So, to be continued, wanted to provide. . . I mean it's already after 3:40, so I'm happy to, to have a discussion with you all, take questions, but also really look forward to coming back, to really do a deeper dive into, for example, in terms of the environmental resources, agriculture, cultural and historic. I've got Annalise Kehler, who is our CRC guru expert who absolutely wants to come back, Michele, myself. . . so we can have this deep discussion. And, Chair, if there is time, you know, maybe in one of your Committee meetings, then we could really devote a fuller discussion. But I felt at this time, it was important to at least introduce the framework, and then I'm happy to answer any questions as it pertains to that. And that's, that's. . . that's what I have for now. Like I said, part one.

**. . . END PRESENTATION . . .**

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Eaton. I had a question about this. And, and looking at our, our focus in this Committee about protecting the natural environment and preserving the culture and traditions. How do we take this to, to creating some of, some of the resolutions and ordinances that by, by, by looking at this plan and, and utilizing, you know, the, the wording that's in here? And the next step is to, to. . . as, as policy makers, how do we bridge this. . . from this document to actually making policies in this Committee?

MS. EATON: That's a fair. . . that's a great question. Thank you. So, I think one suggestion I would have is for. . . as important as it is to look at the chapters identified, I think you might wanna start with the implementation chapter. Because in the implementation chapter, Chapter 10, it identifies, it identifies actions as well as policies and even projects and programs that need to be done. So, within the purview of your Committee, you might wanna start there. And then even take a look at, for example, some of the Community Plans to see what has or has not been done there. Tomorrow, you will hear about in the Planning Committee. . . there'll be a report on basically the status of what's been implemented and so forth. So I, I think that's the first place to start. But, for example, there has been a sea level rise resolution as well as an executive order from the Mayor, and that came up of basically the acute problem, not only long-time chronic, but the very acute problem of how sea level rise and coastal erosion is impacting Maui County. It also had great timing in terms of the ICAC report being released, and a lot of the work that's been done around the State of Hawaii, and the necessity of addressing

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sea level rise. So, I, I think maybe that one of the first things to do would be to take a look at the implementation chapter as it pertains to those specific areas, and then, you know, see as issues are coming forth, how to address those issues in terms of what'll be relevant. I think policies can be extremely important, but I think it's also as critically important to follow those policies in a consistent matter, even when it's difficult.

CHAIR SINENCI: Just a follow-up question. Do you think some of the existing policies might need to be, I guess, tweaked for, for more updated usage?

MS. EATON: I'm sure they can. Absolutely. I think, for example, as better information is available. . .I mean. . .for. . .I mean I'll take an easy one. And I say "easy" meaning, sea level rise, right, and the impacts of climate change. Because we now, as Tara mentioned, have this incredible report and phenomenal source of data, not just scientific data with specific regard to, for example, wave run up and so forth and what. . .and the impact that's having, and the value of the properties, and the loss, and the vulnerability. We also have the digital Viewer, which is incredible. That gives you geospatial data so you can really look at the impacts and projections for the future. All right, that's something very concrete, and that's sea level rise and impacts of climate change. But, for example, when it comes to cultural, and historic traditions and values, I think that's something where you really have to be in tune with. . .as things have transpired over the past however many years, how have those, perhaps, not been realized? Where are they in danger, and then what could be done? And I think that's important in terms of reaching back to the community and stakeholders and interest groups and getting that read from them.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Members, any questions for Ms. Eaton? Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Chairman, no, no real questions at this time. As Ms. Eaton has explained, this is just sort of an intro for us. But I certainly appreciate the, the long hours of work she and the Planning Department put into this plan, which has taken years upon years, and a lot of public input. So, that's just my comments for today, and I appreciate the presentation. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Lee, any comment?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for your efforts. I look forward to hearing more tomorrow.

CHAIR SINENCI: As, as Ms. Eaton mentioned, they will be going more into the Community Plans tomorrow in the Planning and Land Use Committee. Member Sugimura, any comments?

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I just appreciate the, the explanation. I've been through the Maui Island. . .Molokai Island Plan, and, and seen the. . .really the details that, you know, you pulled together in your long-range planning group. I appreciate yourself and Ms. McLean. It's tough work, and how to integrate the communities' voices in it, you know, and making sure that people don't feel like they're being excluded is, is always an important thing. And I see. . .the outreach that I see you doing with the, the West Maui Plan is exceptional, and I want. . .I'm a we Maui or we, we are Maui. . .I'm on your e-mail blast, so I, I get to see what you're doing. So, appreciate that and I just want to say, from the Council, I'm here to help you, if whatever you guys need, to make sure that your work works smoothly and you're able to execute the difficult job that you have, so--

MS. EATON: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I just wanna say, again, thank you, Ms. Eaton, for your presentation. And you're right, I wish we could have dove deeper into some of the things, because I think it's interesting. I mean I don't sit on the Planning and Land Use Committee, so. . .and I usually end up having other meetings while you all are meeting. . .but I think it's interesting that for us to really know this like the back of our hand, the Countywide Plan and Maui Island Plan, because then when we help our communities to create their Community Plans, to me, it's like an overlay. This is the Maui Island Plan, the big plan, then you have the Countywide Policy Plan, that lies on it, and then you get the Community Plans, and it's supposed to look like one, wonderfully great community working and thriving together. But sometimes I see conflicts, because when you talk about the traditional culture, and some of these conflicts we're having today, I'm, I'm at a loss as to how to resolve some of those things. We live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and yet we have to. . .we bring forth some of our 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century traditions, and, and we have to live in balance, like you said. And I'm just looking forward to how we're gonna be able to make that happen. 'Cause I think we can. I think as native people, we've always walked in two worlds, and sometimes three, depending on, you know, how much blood you got going on in your veins. But I think it's important for us to understand this process, and to know that this is a process that will be able to help our people to be able to bring forth their culture, their tradition, and their language. So thank you very much for doing this for us.

MS. EATON: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Ms. Eaton, any response or comments?

MS. EATON: Just that I do look forward to part 2, and delving into the issues that Councilmember Kama brought up. That's gonna be very important. And it's gonna be very full. I, I mean it's, it's a huge amount of information. Any ideas you have as we

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develop that, I'm, I'm absolutely open to. We are working with your staff, and I appreciate that. But, sitting here and reading to you the information in the books in front of you, I don't think is useful and helpful. And I do think we need a lot of time to do that. But I think it's super valuable, and really appreciate the opportunity.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes. Thank you, Ms. Eaton. Members, so you've been kind of given the Countywide Policy Plan, and the Maui Island Plan, to look over and look at some of the actions and the implementation efforts within it. And I think we can use. . .these are important tools as, as Coun..., Councilmembers to go back into our communities, when we do, to share some of these important plans with them and to include them in the process, especially when the Community Plans will be coming through your own communities. So, if there are any other questions or comments from the Members? Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Just, Chair, it's been for some of these communities over 20 years since their review and we have got. . .and I, I think this is probably a subject for the Planning and Land Use Committee. . .but we've gotta find a way to go simultaneously into these communities and get this community engagement started. Because being on that long list and waiting 'til your, your number comes up is really just not gonna cut it for these communities. The next one after this is South Maui, but then, you know, if you're in, in Haiku and Wailuku, and then we get down, you know to Ka..., I can't remember the exact order, but by the time we get to the last one on this list, it's gonna be 30+ years. And we just have to find a way to do this quicker. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes. I concur, and I believe we're gonna start that conversation tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. So that said, Members, if there are no other objections, the Chair will defer this matter.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR SINENCI: And so, no objections. Thank you, Ms. Owens, of the, of. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .*(chuckle)*. . . Ms. Eaton.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .sorry, it says--I'll cross it out right now--and the Deputy Corporation, Ms. Richelle, for being here. If there are no further business before the Committee, this meeting of the Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee is adjourned. Thank you. . . .*(gavel)* . . .

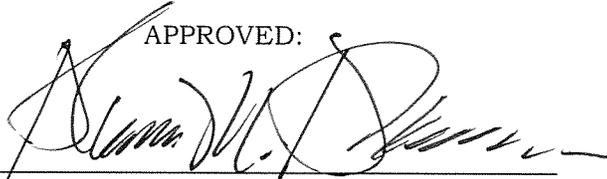
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**ADJOURN: 3:46 p.m.**

APPROVED:



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

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Transcribed by: Nicole Siegel