

# **ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**February 26, 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  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez (out 2:10 p.m.)

**STAFF:**

Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney  
Kasie Apo-Takayama, Legislative Analyst  
Nicole Siegel, Committee Secretary  
Clarita Balala, 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

**ADMIN.:**

Richelle Thomson, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

Michael Miyamoto, Director, Department of Environmental Management (EACP-17(2))

May Anne Alibin, Deputy Director, Department of Finance (EACP-19)

Kay Fukumoto, Economic Development Director, Office of the Mayor (EACP-19)

Seated in the gallery

Tamara Farnsworth, Recycling Coordinator, Department of Environmental Management (EACP-17(2))

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**OTHERS:** Adam Radford, Manager, Maui Invasive Species Committee (EACP-17(2))  
Lori Buchanan, Coordinator, Moloka'i/Maui Invasive Species Committee (EACP-17(2))  
Marshall Loope, Plant Quarantine Master Journeyman, Hawaii Department of Agriculture (EACP-17(2))  
  
Claire Kamalu Carroll (EACP-17(2))  
Arturo Wesley (EACP-17(2))  
John Phelps, (EACP-19)  
David DeLeon (EACP-19)  
Jason Economou, Government Affairs Director, Realtors Association of Maui, paid lobbyist (EACP-17(2))  
Sybil Lopez, Kalamaula Mauka Homestead Association (EACP-17(2))  
Zandra Amaral Crouse (EACP-19)  
Additional attendees (5)

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

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CHAIR SINENCI: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Aloha kakou. Welcome to the Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting of February 26, 2019. I ask that we come to order. It is 1:35. I'm Shane Sinenci, the Chair of the Committee. First off, could I please ask that everyone silence all cell phones and noise-making devices? Thank you. I will start with some introductions. I'd like to introduce our Vice-Chair, Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha. Council Chair Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good afternoon.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good afternoon. Members Michael Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good afternoon. Member Yuki Lei Sugimura.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good afternoon. And non-voting Member, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha. Okay. We have with us in the Council Chambers, Richelle Thomson of the Deputy Corporation Counsel. We don't have Mike here just yet. Oh, Mike is in the back. Mike Miyamoto, Director of Environmental Management. A representative from the Department of Finance, do we have May Anne Alibin? Is she here yet? She's en route. We also have Kay Fukumoto the Director of Economic Development. Okay. For our resources, we have Adam Radford, the Manager of the Maui Invasive Species Committee; Lori Buchanan, Coordinator of Molokai Invasive Species Committee.

MS. BUCHANAN: Aloha, everybody.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha. And Marshall Loope, the Plant Quarantine Master Journeyman of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Aloha, Mr. Loope. For staff, we have Carla Nakata, Kasie Apo-Takayama, Nicole Siegel, and Clarita Balala. In our neighboring District Offices, we have Mavis Medeiros of Hana; Denise Fernandez of Lanai; and Zhantell Lindo of Molokai. Today, Members, we have EACP-17(2), Matters within the Committee's Subject-Matter Jurisdiction (Maui Invasive Species Committee and Moloka'i/Maui Invasive Species Committee). We also have EACP-19, or Grant G4814, of the University of Hawaii, Coqui Frog Eradication. Scheduling of these matters is particularly timely, as this week has been designated National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Testimony, 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 District Office staff. Testimony will be limited to the items listed on the agenda today. And 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 if you're a paid lobbyist. When testifying, please state your name and any organization you may be representing. May we ask of all individuals in the gallery to please be mindful of everyone's testimony today. Thank you. Staff, do we have any testifiers today?

MS. NAKATA: Yes, Mr. Chair. The first person signed up to testify in the chamber is Claire Kamalu Carroll. She'll be testifying on EACP-17(2). She'll be followed by Arturo Wesley.

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

MS. CARROLL: Aloha. My name is Claire Kamalu Carroll. Miconia: what is it, what is important to know about this specific plant? They grow up to 50 feet tall; and with their large oval leaves, with a green top and purple underneath, miconia is a native to South

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and Central America, introduced as a garden plant in 1961, and spread around to plant enthusiasts. On the east end of the island of Maui, miconia is threatening our native forests, by shading out our watersheds and creating a canopy, or umbrella, that limits and reduces the amount of rainwater that many of our community depends on. It takes about three or four years for a miconia plant to mature. And one tree in maturity will produce 3 million seeds, couple times a year. These seeds can remain viable for over 20 years. How do we know about this? Tahiti was introduced to this plant and it has already taken two-thirds of Tahiti rainforests and responsible for at least 25 percent of the native forest species with extinction. How do we. . .there are only two workers that are responsible for East Maui for eradication and control to fight this plant, in which has already spread throughout East Maui. Why is this? On an island that depends on our water resources, and no one should have no room for MISC to use funds elsewhere, where a task force in Hana should have been increased and not the opposite of what's happening in present day. Monies were given in full. . .for a full crew and were to be placed and not displaced. These monies were to last until July, but yet workers were told that they don't have the monies now. Why is that? We are asking for an audit to be conducted to see where monies are being used. Salaries should be reviewed and adjusted to make sure that we are using these funds in favor of fieldwork, not office work. Miconia has already been declared by Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to be the most invasive horticultural plant. Ask yourselves if you're ok with this. I'm not. In the 2018-19 budget of the Water Committee was put to budget, 500,000 to miconia and other invasive plants, 250,000 to protect our watersheds in East Maui. Give and take, that fieldworkers make about 30,000 annually, which isn't much. Seven workers in the field would be about, estimated, 210,000. I have spoken to Mike Ade, Adam Radford—

MS. NAKATA: Three minutes.

MS. CARROLL: --and Dr. Fern Duvall in this matter and requests for a breakdown where these monies are being allocated. Per Adam, they were relocating workers to coqui frog work force, due to Maui County has not released funds for the miconia workforce. I ask that Council Committee to ask questions on Teya Penniman employment, and specific role on MISC. I have learned that work done Teya is mostly done by remote. She is not listed as a committee member but remains employed. This is--

CHAIR SINENCI: Closing. . .Ms. Carroll, closing comments?

MS. CARROLL: Yes. Okay. I'm here to actually support funding, but I'm also here to voice that I think we should take a hard look with these monies being given for the opportunity to take care of the invasive species that overrun this—

MS. NAKATA: Four minutes.

MS. CARROLL: --this island. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Carroll. Members, do we have any questions for Ms. Carroll?

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I do.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Carroll for being here. So you're saying, Hana, you have two workers that work with MISC, and they are no longer able to do their work because there's not enough funding. Did I get that correct?

MS. CARROLL: Well, they brought on three workers, three additional workers. Right now, in present day, there are two workers that are stationed in Hana. They just let go. . . and the workers were told that County had not released monies and they could take the opportunity to work with the coqui frog eradication program instead. So, like, for example, for this week, we have, I think, there's like four or five work crew that came over from Piipiholo headquarters to help our Hana crew. But another example is, one person calls in sick, you're left with just one person trying to do the job, which should have been at least seven people out there eradicating. I volunteer, I go into the mountains. I brought a miconia leaf if anybody is not aware how large they can become. And this is only from a 10-footer miconia plant. We're in danger.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. So this is the miconia crew you only talking about not coqui frog or any of the other invasive. . .they have a unique situation.

MS. CARROLL: Exactly. I met with Councilman Shane Sinenci—what was that, last week?—and he informed me that you folks were having a meeting today, and MISC would be here; and this would be perfect opportunity to address this issue in regards to MISC, since they were here.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you.

MS. CARROLL: Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Clerk, our next testifier?

MS. NAKATA: The next testifier is Arturo Wesley. He'll be testifying on EACP-17(2). Mr. Wesley will be followed by John Phelps.

MR. WESLEY: Good afternoon. My name is Arturo Wesley. I live in Haiku, right on the edge of Lilikoi Gulch, which is a small gulch that goes into Maliko Gulch. It's very steep and deep and very difficult to access. It's full of coquis. So, I can take care of the coquis that come on my property. I can go out at night with a search light, with a flashlight, and hunt them down one by one; but what's down in the gulch is impossible for me and any other homeowner. That's why we need MISC. They come in with their big equipment and they can do it, they've got the manpower, they've got the equipment.

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And we need them to stop the coquis from coming up the gulch into the properties. And if you don't stop them there, then they will come up; and the next thing, you'll have them here in Wailuku. We've got to stop them there in Haiku where they are now. So, we need MISC, and MISC needs funding. So, I hope you take care of that. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Wesley. Were there any questions--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --I have a question

CHAIR SINENCI: --for Mr. Wesley?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Hi Arturo. Been a long time.

MR. WESLEY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Hey, so I wanted to ask you, has there ever been any indication from MISC that they can actually eradicate them from the gulch?

MR. WESLEY: Yes, yes, they, they think that it is possible.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. WESLEY: Yeah. But, it seems like they--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --it needs more funding.

MR. WESLEY: --need more equipment.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. WESLEY: Because with what they have. . .they're up at Giggle Hill, they're on Kaluanui, they're all over the place, and they just can't do it all. They come to our neighborhood maybe once every two or three months with a big pump. But they got to come once a month. And, of course, you can't have them everywhere, they've got a schedule too.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

MR. WESLEY: Seems like they need more equipment.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. NAKATA: Chair, the next testifier is John Phelps. He'll be testifying on EACP-19. He'll be followed by David DeLeon.

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MR. PHELPS: Aloha. My name is John Phelps, I'm a resident and property owner on Haiku Hill. I want to talk a little bit about what we are doing as a group on Haiku Hill to try to supplement what MISC is providing. There are about 37 properties on Haiku Hill, and we've banded together as a group, and we're committing about 1,000 man hours between now and early summer for us to try to remove all the frogs from our individual properties on Haiku Hill by spring. Several thousand gallons of citric on our personal properties, but when we're done, which will, which will occur after about three sprayings and sometime in June, then we're going to still have frogs at the perimeter, which is in the gulch. There's no way that we can, as property owners, can walk on someone else's property and go try to do anything. We have to have support from the neighbors, which is if it's State land or whoever owns the gulch is, needs to help us now by preventing the re-infestation of the properties that we are going to eradicate between now and June. If we spend--there's about 100 acres that we are committed to take care of--if we spend 1,000 man hours, it's easy to do the math with those numbers, it's about 10 hours per acre of labor that we're going to expend, spread over the 100...to, you know, to try to get the frogs out of our properties. But if you then think of the gulches and you think of the acres, multiply that by a lot more than 10, because that property is not flat in the gulches and not flat and nearly as easy to eradicate as what our own individual properties are. We're talking about a large investment in terms of trying to keep the effort that we're going to be doing now from just being wasted. Because if we do not then keep the frogs from re-infesting our properties, why should we start and spend the 1,000 hours of our time, plus the expenditure and the support from MISC with the citric and the equipment, why should we even start if it's simply going to be for naught, unless we protect the boundaries after we're done? Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Phelps. Members, do we have any questions for Mr. Phelps?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I have a question.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you for being here. Thanks for your commitment, you and your neighbors. Are you getting any resistance from any of the owners of the gulch property?

MR. PHELPS: Less. We had some significant resistance in the past. But the major property that we were concerned about, I've talked to his owner, and he said he was going to be willing to help. In fact, he's saying we can use his pick up; so that's a big step in the right direction. But then there's another property where the gentleman says, well, no, don't kill the frogs, or the ants, or the plants, or anything. Just stay out of my property. That is going to be a problem. That one. But that then becomes a boundary for us that we have to protect ourselves from that breeding ground that we, we do not have authority or permission to go in.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, sir. Our next testifier.

MS. NAKATA: The next testifier is David DeLeon. He'll be testifying on EACP-19. Mr. DeLeon will be followed by Jason Economou.

MR. DeLEON: Aloha. Good afternoon. I'm Dave DeLeon, speaking as an individual, for myself, for my family, for my neighborhood, and for my community, and my island. Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of Invasive Species Grant Request to the Maui County's, continued, Maui County's investment in controlling the spread of coqui frog throughout our County. I...to do...which item I was speaking to, so I went through 19's bill, which had it not been for the efforts of MISC and the serious investment Maui County has made to this cause to date, our neighborhood would have been long overrun. The...these frogs started showing up around five years ago, and there were just a couple, and then it increased. If you haven't really experienced it yourself, you don't really...can't really appreciate the impact it'll have on your living experience. Try imagining when they get about half a dozen of them outside your bedroom window and you're trying to get a good night's sleep. That means the windows are closed, and it means you got ear plugs on. And then you might...and maybe a pillow over your head. I've had a situation where I've been close to...this close to a singing coqui, it's painful. I mean, literally painful. Your ears hurt. To see where we're going with this, we only need to look at the Big Island. There are areas in Puna where scientists have measured populations as dense as 20,000 an acre. That happens because Hawaii provides the perfect habitat for coqui to prosper, and because there's no serious, natural, effective predators. Perhaps destroying. . .besides destroying the night's quiet, that many animals occupying a given space also destroys the biodiversity of that space. Without a concerted effort, this is what our County and, indeed, the whole state has to look forward to. On the way down here, the thought crossed my mind, I did send in testimony, but this is a little bit different than what I sent in. In 2012, the Charter Commission proposed, and the voters approved, the establishment of a Division of Environmental Protection in the Department of Environmental Management. The County's been able to avoid the fiscal requirement that amendment would cause, because MISC is already meeting the need. The point is, the voters' intent was clear. They wanted local government dealing with these types of environmental issues. Maui County's investment in MISC addresses that demand. So, thank you in advance for your support of the MISC request, and know that these funds are going...and not to some obscure state agency, but right back into the neighborhoods seeking to defend themselves and their peace and quiet. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. DeLeon. Members, any questions for Mr. DeLeon? Seeing none—

MR. DeLEON: Thank you.



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MS. NAKATA: Chair, the next testifier is Jason Economou. He is the Government Affairs Director for the Realtors Association of Maui and is testifying on EACP-17(2). He'll be followed by Sybil Lopez.

MR. ECONOMOU: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Members. As you stated, I am here representing the Realtors Association of Maui, and it's more than 1600 members. I am a paid lobbyist, so that conforms with the Rules, letting you know.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

MR. ECONOMOU: I provided my testimony both in hard copy, and soft copy. You all should have copies of it. I want to diverge from what I wrote a little bit, because we really do need to just look at the Big Island to see where the issue with coqui frogs and little fire ants is going. The Realtors Association of Maui, we recognize this as a huge issue. Yes?

CHAIR SINENCI: Excuse me. Could you state your name for the record?

MR. ECONOMOU: Sorry. Jason Economou.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

MR. ECONOMOU: Yeah. We recognize that coqui frogs and fire ants are two hugely, substantial threats to Maui. There is the quality of life issue, but I want to highlight a couple of studies that I've researched regarding the economic impact that these species have. There was a 2006 study that looked at coqui frogs on the Big Island and the impact that it had. And what they'd found was that property values declined within 500 meters of coqui frog activity. Now, the decline in individual property values was not particularly substantial. But, when looked at in an aggregate, per year, the impact was \$1.3 million loss to the housing market. That's just the housing market alone, and that is only related to coqui frogs. And they only looked at single-family dwellings in this study. They didn't look at condos or any of the other housing options that Maui has. So, aside from coqui frogs, you can look at the economic impact of little fire ants. There is a more recent study that was published in the Journal of Ecological Economics in 2015, and they calculated that residential damages were in the amount of \$1,000 per property per year; lodging damages, as high as \$183,000 per property per year; agricultural damages, \$600 per farm and \$9,000 per nursery; and damages to parks, as far as having to maintain them, with little fire ants present, they calculate it at \$2,300 per acre. So, both of these studies ultimately looked at the amount of funding that was going into attacking these invasive species. And both of these studies said, whatever money you put there before, you need to put more because the problem only gets more expensive as time goes on. So, I'm here to encourage you all to keep on empowering MISC to keep on fighting coqui frogs and fire ants, and, and all the other great work that they do. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Economou. Question? Member Paltin?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering if you and your members were supportive of the District Green Waste Transfer Stations.

MR. ECONOMOU: Yes. You know, one of the things that we recognize is that green waste being illegally dumped is one of the mechanisms by which coqui frogs and other invasive species are getting re-introduced into areas. And, you know, members of RAM are fully in support of additional green waste facilities, this way we don't have this continued problem of re-introduction.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And good afternoon, Mr. Economou. I appreciate your testimony and, as a representative of the Realtors Association of Maui, from that perspective, are you noticing a growing number of concerns from potential buyers in these areas that's affected by the coqui frogs, for example, people looking for homes for purchase? And, I guess, maybe in general throughout the whole island, are you hearing that a lot from potential purchasers?

MR. ECONOMOU: Unfortunately, we haven't collected any data. But anecdotally, yes, it is a concern. Especially folks, residents, who are already here who know the area, they're hesitant to purchase in areas where they know coqui frogs are affecting them. So, it already is having an impact on the housing market; but right now it's very difficult to quantify.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. One more question? Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I noticed on your address that you share the same building as the Maui Visitor's Bureau. Have you looked into teaming up with them on this issue, as it could significantly affect the tourist experience, you know, around sunset, and like that, have you reached out to them as well to team up?

MR. ECONOMOU: I have not. But that is a good idea. I'll look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Right on. Thanks.

MR. ECONOMOU: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Any other questions for Mr. Economou? No?

MR. ECONOMOU: All right.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

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MR. ECONOMOU: Thank you very much.

MS. NAKATA: Chair, the next testifier is Sylvia [sic] Lopez, she'll be testifying on EACP-17(2) and is signed up on behalf of Kalamaula Mauka Homestead Association.

MS. LOPEZ: Aloha mai kakou. My name is Sybil Lopez. I took off for. . .during my lunch break, so I spend my lunch break with you guys. I am not a paid lobbyist, so I am speaking on behalf of. . .I'm the President of our Kalamaula Mauka Homestead Association. I am a daughter of a hunter. I am a mother of hunters, and I am a sister of hunters, and I, myself, hunt for our way of life on Molokai. And it is specific to your other invasive species, and I would like to talk a little bit more about the axis deer. Hold on. So, in the 1860's, axis deer were introduced to the island of Molokai, Hawaii, as a gift from Hong Kong to King Kamehameha V. The deer were introduced to Lanai, and soon afterward...and are now plentiful on both of the islands. The deer were introduced to Maui island in the 1950's to increase hunting opportunities. Because the deer have no natural predators on the Hawaiian Islands, their population is growing 20-30 percent each year, causing serious damage to agriculture and natural areas. So my intent is to support MoMISC before I kind of run out of time, and to support the funding of MoMISC, and specifically with deer and how we do deer management. And I'd just like to point out that our House of Representative, Lynn DeCoite, actually proposed a bill, and it's called, House Bill #265-HD1, and I just wanted to read out of the, the bill that was proposed in the Leg..., that "the Legislature further finds that, although the axis deer population may be referred to as an invasive species, it also significantly contributes to the subsistence, hunting lifestyle, and cultural practices of Maui...residents of Maui County. So, accordingly, available resources should be focused on the management of the axis deer population to mitigate its negative environmental impacts, rather than its complete extermination. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to substantially reduce and eradicate the problem of invasive species in the County of Maui, provided that the population of axis deer shall be managed rather than eradicated. And the Chair of the Committee on Ag, Chair Creagan, in his letter to Honorable Scott Saiki, noted that "your Committee finds that the disposition of the axis deer population requires further discussions between the community and government agencies on issues related to the axis deer's impact on the County of Maui, including subsistence hunting, health-related issues, cultural practices, and financial assistance to construct fencing to protect ag and other resources." So if you ask anybody on Molokai, how much deer we get on Molokai, the answer going be, "choke." So, if we going ask funding for axis deer, the answer should be "choke." So if not, we should propose a deer management plan or some type of study to help control our invasive species on our island. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Lopez. Questions? Yes. Ms. Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Sybil, in your discussions with your community, have you ever thought of maybe turning that particular liability into a more economic engine for Molokai?

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MS. LOPEZ: Yes, we, along with Ms. Buchanan, have participated in meetings run by the Soil and Water Conservation on our island. And we've also held meetings with our Kalamaula Mauka Homestead. And we're actually in a process right now with the DHHL updating their regional plan, and we actually have it as a priority. So it's one of the priorities under DHHL to move forward with the deer management plan.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Does that include maybe harvesting or maybe curing and those kinds of --

MS. LOPEZ: So...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: --I mean, you guys make the best jerky I know, so --

MS. LOPEZ: Yes, thank you, thank you Councilmember Kama. But, yes, we have a three-phase proposal that we are working on right now. Thank you --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: --Thank you.

MS. LOPEZ: --for that question.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just wasn't clear. You and the homesteaders, you want. . .you prefer eradication or management?

MS. LOPEZ: Management. We want to control our deer; but, first, in order to control it, we want to know much we actually have. Choke is plenty; so if we want to ask for choke, we like choke funding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you don't want to eradicate?

MS. LOPEZ: No, not at all. Like, what Councilmember Kama said, we kind of want it full-circle, more of a harvesting instead of a hunting kind of plan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like sustainable?

MS. LOPEZ: Yes. Because the fight is, we subsist on it. And so, trying to shift our mentality to actually use that as a cash economy and a subsistence economy, so we can both use it as two-fold.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. LOPEZ: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Councilmember Kama, yes, we do have the best jerky. Mahalo, Ms. Lopez for your testimony today. I wasn't super clear on what it was that you're asking. It doesn't look like MISC and MoMISC have axis deer as one of their priority species to control; and so I wanted clarification on your testimony if that is what you're asking, if it should...to have it as one of their targets or if you're asking for MISC to do a management plan.

MS. LOPEZ: Thank you for the question, Councilmember. If I would, I would like to have both. But, you're right—thank you for the question—that it's under other invasive species. So, number one, maybe we should add that to your list; and, number two, the request is to actually do a deer management plan. Just to be consistent with the House Bill, right now, I know that it passed in the Leg., and I don't know if that's funding that would be going to MoMISC or how they will appropriate that funding under DLNR; but, yes, can we ask for both? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your clarification.

CHAIR SINENCI: Anyone else? Thank you, Ms. Lopez.

MS. LOPEZ: Thank you for your time. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, as a reminder Members, thank you for your patience for allowing some of the testifiers to testify off of our agenda items, but because we do have some of our resources here, we would allow that for today. Clerk?

MS. NAKATA: The next testifier is Zandra Amaral Crouse. She'll be testifying on EACP-19. Mr. Chair, Ms. Crouse is the last testifier signed up to testify in the Chamber.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. CROUSE: Aloha kou mau [sic]. Aloha, good morning, my friends. Oh, not morning, it is afternoon. Sorry, didn't mean to turn you guys back in time. My name is Zandra Amaral Crouse, and I'm here to testify on item 19. But you've heard from the people who are affected in our communities from Molokai, Lanai, and many parts of Maui, especially Upcountry, and other areas of our County that are affected by these invasive species. The only thing I would like to humbly ask you, that money is definitely needed to help eradicate these invasive species that is taking away much of our cultural plans, much of our cultural lifestyle. But I humbly ask you in short, be sure that that--\$750,000 is it?—that \$750,000 go towards fieldwork, not administrative. If our state does not have administration to deal with invasive species, they should. Shame on them if they don't. But I humbly ask all of you, unless we get men and women in

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the field, the problem will exist, and this party will be before you again for another grant, another year, as they've done in the past. So, my request is real simple. I humbly ask, be sure that you make it very, very clear to them that should they be given the money of the County of Maui. . .the people of Maui County's money that they use it for people on the ground, not for people behind the desk. And that is my testimony, Chair, so I thank you for this opportunity.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Crouse. Members, any questions for Ms. Crouse?

MS. CROUSE: Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Seeing none, thank you.

MS. CROUSE: Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Clerk, can we check with our District Offices...for testimony?

MS. NAKATA: Molokai District Office, do you have any testifiers? Mr. Chair, we've received an email. Molokai does not have any testifiers. Hana District Office, do you have any testifiers?

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: Are you calling Hana? I can barely hear you.

MS. NAKATA: Yes. Hana District Office, do you have any testifiers?

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: Hi, aloha. This is Mavis from Hana. There is no one here waiting to testify.

MS. NAKATA: Thank you, Hana. Lanai District Office, do you have any testifiers?

MS. FERNANDEZ: Good afternoon, Chair. This is Denise Fernandez at the Lanai office, and there is no one waiting to testify.

MS. NAKATA: Mr. Chair, there is no one else signed up to testify in the Chamber either.

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

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

**. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

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**ITEM EACP-17(2): MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER JURISDICTION (MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE AND MOLOKAI/MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE) (RULE 7(B))**

CHAIR SINENCI: For our first item, Rule 7(B), discussion on the Maui Invasive Species Committee and Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committees, EACP-17(2). Members, today we will be receiving information from individuals with the Maui Invasive Species Committee and the Molokai and Maui Invasive Species Committees who will share the status of their efforts to eradicate or mitigate infestations of coqui frogs, little fire ants, miconia, banana bunchy top virus, and other invasive species. These representatives will also share the preventative measures being taken, how their funding is allocated, and other related issues within their organizations. In addition, Chair has invited a representative from the State Department of Agriculture to field questions regarding the inspection process used to deter the spread of invasive species in Maui County. We will first start with Mr. Adam Radford, then continue with Ms. Lori Buchanan, and round out the discussion with Mr. Loope. Members, as noted on today's agenda, Adam Radford is the Manager of the Maui Invasive Species Committee, and Lori Buchanan is the Coordinator of the Molokai office. In that capacity, they have specialized knowledge about the threats and challenges that invasive species pose within our County. If there are no objections, your Chair would like to designate Mr. Radford and Ms. Buchanan as resources, pursuant to Rule 18-A of the Rules of the Council. Okay. In addition, the Acting Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture has graciously accommodated our request to have a representative from the Department attend the meeting to field questions regarding the inspection process used to deter the spread of invasive species in Maui County. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture conducts statewide work to support, enhance, promote, and protect Hawaii's agriculture and aquaculture industries. They work to create and maximize opportunities for exporting and facilitate growth of existing and new agriculture commodities and byproducts. In addition, the department works to prevent the introduction and establishment of plants, animals, and diseases that are detrimental to the state's agriculture industry and the environment. Within the department is the Plant Quarantine Branch, which serves to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful pests and diseases from one island to another from infested areas of the island to un-infested areas, and from outside the state. In Mr. Loope's capacity, he has specialized knowledge about the inspection process used to deter the spread of invasive species in Hawaii. If there are no objections, Chair would like to designate Mr. Loope as a resource person pursuant to Rule 18A of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

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CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Members. Thank you, Mr. Loope, for being here. Mr. Radford, do you want to proceed with your presentation?

MR. RADFORD (*PowerPoint Presentation*): Is the light on? Okay, sorry about that, Chair. Aloha, Chair. Thank you for asking us to be here today, much appreciated opportunity and great to see all of you, some new and some familiar faces. And congratulations to the new Councilmembers and welcome back to the existing. So, I just wanted to address one thing that came up already, and that's an issue of transparency, I think. And, we welcome the opportunity to answer questions and relay information. And a lot of what we do and how we operate is really complex. We're a project of the University of Hawaii, and I'll talk about some of those details in a little bit, but I understand that it can be confusing of, like, where's the money go, how's it all work. And so I just welcome you all to please reach out to us if you have specific questions, or just would like a general overview. And I will say that we conducted an informal audit with the Office of Economic Development last April, and we are in process to conduct a formal audit with a Honolulu-based firm that was put on retainer per the commitment of the last Council, in December. So, we are going through that process now, and we are hopeful that that'll be wrapped up in March, before you go into budget, to provide even more validation of the work we do, and also transparency for what we've been doing. The focus of that audit is on FY 17 and FY 18 grants. FY 18 is still, it's still an active grant. But again, hopefully, that's going to yield results that are favorable to all, and I'm absolutely confident that it will. So, just wanted to make that clear. And I got a list of questions here right before we sat down, and hopefully I'll address some of those as I go through my talk today. And if not, I'm sure Auntie Lori Buchanan over here will help cover the ones I miss. But again, at the end, we'll have an opportunity, I believe, Chair, for questions, and welcome those when we conclude. So, I apologize if some of this presentation is repetitious for some of you. It may be a bit, but hopefully I'll cover some new ground and address some things that maybe haven't been covered before. But, currently, our project, the Maui Invasive Species Committee, we are the recipients of County funding. And that funding then goes to help both our projects here on Maui, which include our office in Makawao, and our staff there. They work on plants and mostly coqui frogs. And then our staff in Hana, which came up earlier in testimony, and appreciate that. I'll talk about our Hana miconia situation a little bit more here in a bit. But we do have permanent staff in Hana; and yeah, unfortunately we have had some losses in staffing out there. But we are looking to fill those as quickly as we are capable of, and that also speaks to a bit of a timing issue with grants coming online. Basically, the grant dollars being in the bank so that we can spend them. So we're just in a holding pattern with the University of Hawaii, waiting for that final approval. The money's there, we just need to get it in the bank, and so we can spend it. But, we have good candidates, if you know of any, good candidates, both for Hana or Upcountry, please let us know, 'cause MISC is open for business. We're certainly always looking for good people. And part of that is that the work we do is really challenging, and it requires a unique personality to want to do it. Like, our coqui crew typically work from 12 or 1 in the afternoon 'til 10:30 or 11:30 at night, Monday through Thursday. Other crews are working, you know, 5:00 in the morning 'til 5:00 at night, it just depends on what they're doing. So, it's challenging, yet incredibly rewarding work, as you all know. So,



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our kuleana is Maui Nui, we do some work on all the islands, including Molokini, but that's mostly assisting partner projects. Otherwise, our focus is MISC Maui and MoMISC on Molokai. I just want to talk a little bit about the University of Hawaii's structure and what they provide. So, as a project of the University, we receive a lot of benefits that, like, would be quite significant investments were we to choose to not be affiliated with the University of Hawaii. For example, insurance. On the left of this graph, the Office of Research Services, they help us administer all of our grants. We're housed under the Department of Botany in the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, and they provide guidance, administrative support, scientific expertise. With the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii, they provide all of our human resources services. So, we actually get a lot for our affiliation there and having our grants funneled through there. And one thing that's come up in the past is that the total overhead for our grants on paper is 15 percent. It's actually rarely actually 15 percent. That's the stated amount, but it's typically more like 10 to 12 percent of our grants. And that's because we're capable, with our staff here on Maui, of being able to provide some services that the university typically does, like payroll and things like that. So they actually end up giving us money back. This has come up a lot, this came up today already. So the whole management, sort of administrative staff to field staff. I just want to be clear on one point that I think is really key, is that all staff participate in field operations. Like I was talking to Lori yesterday around 2:00, and she said, oh, I just got back from the field. Like, that's a pretty typical thing. Like, I'm very active in the field. All of our staff are active in field operations. And, also, so MISC started in 1991 or so. And when we were formed as an organization, we had to bring on certain administrative staff, right? Like, we had to have a manager, we had to have a HR person, essentially. We brought on a GIS data person at that time. And over the years it's evolved to. . .so it's been manager, outreach education, human resources, and data management. Essentially five staff, that really hasn't changed since, like, the early 1990's. But as it says on the last bullet, over the course of 18 years or so, we've brought on 19 plus full-time employees, and really haven't changed our management structure. Currently, I'll just address that now, we have 38 staff. Again, five of those are essentially, like administrative, management type staff. So, it's. . .and then when I ran the time, like, where do we spend our time? It's about 86 percent is fieldwork, 4 percent outreach and education, and under 10 percent is administrative. So I just. . .I'm going to focus on a few priority of target species for us because otherwise, it's just too much to go through, you know. On a given year, we work on 30 to 40 different things that come up that we either look at, can we do something about this, or we actually actively go out and try to do something about it. And so, coqui frog, this is our biggest challenge you heard about already today. Maliko Gulch, it's really, it's a big drainage on the North Shore that goes. . .the infestation goes from essentially Kaluanui down to Hana Highway. It's about four miles of gulch. The frogs have been spilling out of this gulch, and that's what you've heard community members talk about, their efforts to help stem the tide, and that's really been our focus as well, 'cause it's coqui frog heaven. But I just want to go step away from the Maliko part for just a second to highlight. This map shows all the places we've picked off random frogs, and this is also in cooperation with our partners at the Department of Agriculture, who are here today. They've been really helping us with this. But this does require a lot of time, in terms of following up on

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reports and going out and finding all these random frogs, and typically catching them by hand. Again, I just want to give a compliment to the Department of Ag for really stepping up in the last couple years to help us do this, because it frees our crews up then to be in places like Maliko. I like this map just because it shows all the places, where out of those single frogs, we ended up having lots of frogs; and there's 29 of them on this map, but most of the dots are green, which means the frogs are gone. Then why I like this map is it just supports the fact that we can be very effective at removing the frogs if we're given adequate resources and are able to get back to places in a timely manner, that's the biggest challenge. And so, having worked this whole area in Maliko Gulch, we had to make choices with our resources that were available, right? And so, this map, all the different colors represent management units, they're places we think we can work through in a timely way; so, like, about a week per unit. But given available resources, we have to really prioritize the top ones and that is the red stars. Those are our top priority areas that. . .and we look at lots of different considerations for that. But basically, simply, it's like. . .these are places where if we lose it there, we probably are going to lose Haiku and ultimately Maui. Like, for example, Giggle Hill already came up already. Like, if we lose the Giggle Hill and they're into Kauhikoa Gulch and beyond, then that's going to be quite challenging. And so, we're not only holding the line on these fronts, but moving the frogs back towards the gulch, with the goal of actually getting out of those units and into new ones over time. Oh, and I just wanted to point out planning, 'cause this has come up. This is just one example of planning. Like, this all falls in line with our coqui frog management plan just for Maliko Gulch. All of our major projects have a written plan that helps drive our actions and is vetted by our committee. In our committee, we're actually really fortunate that we have a lot of our original committee members from the 90's still on it, and they're incredibly well-regarded scientists, cultural practitioners, experts in their fields who. . .they help drive the actions we are taking on the ground. And just to get through this real quickly. Like, our plan outlines a multi-teamed approach, so that we move through those red stars in a systematic way, but we have teams that are free to go out and help community members and others and sort of mop up behind them. The other team is a roving team as well that does a lot of habitat work and is flexible to go get those random single frogs or help out where needed. But the goal is to have at least one group of people that is on a regular schedule, working through these areas, 'cause that's how you break the reproductive cycle of the frog. So, our strategy for this coming year and the next five years is to continue to expand efforts and continue to develop infrastructure, as well as expand our community-based efforts. You heard about that through testimony already today. We're really excited about that, 'cause as you've heard, we have individuals who are taking incredible action on their own, and we're just trying to help support them through training, providing equipment, supplies, and helping, you know, connect neighbors with neighbors, so that they're also all kind of on the same schedule. And ultimately, in the next few years, we want to really push the frogs back to help ensure a coqui-free Maui. And I'll try to go through these last ones a little quickly, I'm kind of long. But little fire ant, I just want to highlight, again, with this map that we have five active sites, but seven sites on Maui are in a monitoring phase, I mean, it's an ant, so it takes a while to make sure they're gone. But these are incredibly encouraging results. This is really the product of just a couple years' work to get these infestations into a

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phase where we are not finding any ants, and we think they're actually gone. I think that's pretty incredible. And I just want to highlight also that Nahiku, the infestation there is our largest, but we recently have approved a tool that'll allow us to start treating the entire infestation. So we hope to come back to you even next year with really encouraging results, and I'm certain we will, we'll see those. So, we're going to start that here in the next month. *Miconia calvescens*, it was actually how the Maui Invasive Species Committee started; and we were the first of the Invasive Species Committees in the state. We started as the Melastome Action Committee, which this plant is a melastome. And so it remains one of our top priorities, certainly. One of the challenges we've had, though, is. . .it's like, we have a, a pot of money, basically, and we go back to our committee on a regular basis and say, this is what we have, like, where should we spend it? And some of those funds are specific, like coqui frog; and so, of course, we're committed to that. But some are very general, and so we do have to make resource allocation decisions. And I would love to see our Hana miconia crew double or triple, but the reality is, that both, generally, our Council and other funders and committee have said, you know, little fire ant is actually somewhere we'd like you to see more money going; and so we've had to do that. So we are five people in Hana, is what we've traditionally had and what we plan to have, but the reality is, right now we're not staged for expansion for Hana miconia. But I do want to bring up this slide, which again, has a management strategy plan for management of miconia in East Maui, but it also talks about return on investment. And this was a peer-review paper that we put together with the—University of Hawaii has a Economic Research Center; so in cooperation with them and cooperation with our partners at University of Hawaii College Tropical, Agricultural, and Human Resources—but what it says, simply is that in, basically, four years of effort, those efforts have avoided about \$380 million in future management costs. And this is a pretty classic example. Like you heard about little fire ant already in testimony and potential impacts there. I mean, a dollar spent today goes a really long way in the future. And so our focus for miconia, where most of those impacts would occur, are in our more pristine watershed areas; so that's a high priority for us, is to maintain efforts to keep miconia out of those pristine watersheds as well as off of places where people are going to interact with them and/or they're going to cause landslides, like right along the Hana Highway corridor. 'Cause miconia is known to be a very shallow-rooted plant that is. . .it loves landslides, and it helps creating them over and over again. The more landslides, the faster it grows; so, we want to avoid that. And, I think this is, lastly, is just that another major component of our projects is outreach and education, and we really need to maintain that, because that is how we learn about what's going on throughout our communities. We do our own early detection surveys looking for things that aren't here, but that we're worried about. We work a lot with schools. We actually have a part-time position that just goes and works with school groups and does curriculum awareness with teachers using a local science-based curriculum that we helped develop with the National Park Service. And then, of course, we have online presence and all those things as well, but you know. I always think, like, our staff's like 40-something and there's around 160,000 people in Maui County; so that's a lot of eyes and ears out there helping us, if they know what we're interested in, looking for. I mentioned this, but we are projects of University of Hawaii under the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, and I just can't thank you enough for all of your

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support going forward and in the past and just in conversations I have had so far with new Members. Really look forward to working together and I've just. . .I have to be honest, I'm super stoked on the response I've gotten so far in terms of like, yeah, this is an important issue and we...behind you in terms of trying to address it. And so, happy to answer other questions you may have, but just want to say, mahalo nui loa.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Radford. Members, we're just going to take the presentations first, and then we'll open the floor up for questioning. So, at this time, we'll have Ms. Buchanan do her presentation.

MS. BUCHANAN (*PowerPoint Presentation*): Hello. Aloha, everybody. I think you folks all have this handout, yeah? So, to save time, 'cause they told us we was only going to have little bit time, I had them print out the presentation. And so I didn't want to belabor going through each one, because you guys see it's not so much pretty pictures but a lot of data. A lot of information and maps to show that most of our priority species are all on the decline. And so, if you guys are really interested in me going through this for the public, I can; and if not, I can just take questions. And then, in the end, I did want to respond to some of the public testimony as well. So, if Chair wants to go through, you know, to Department of Ag and then swing back to us, that's fine with me. So, that's up to you folks.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, are there any preferences? Okay. So we'll go ahead to Mr. Loope. Mr. Loope, if you have any, just some opening remarks about, you know, the quarantine measures.

MS. BUCHANAN: Green.

MR. LOOPE: All right.

MS. BUCHANAN: Green.

MR. LOOPE: Thank you for having me, sir. 'So, the plant quarantine Maui, we do the whole Maui County. Basically, our job is to inspect everything that's coming into Maui and also leaving Maui. So, our role in this whole thing would be stuff from Big Island, right? That's our biggest concern. So we have, by state law, they have to be inspected prior to leaving Hilo. And if they were ever caught...

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Loope, push it a little bit closer, so—

MR. LOOPE: Oh, sorry.

CHAIR SINENCI: --so Akaku can hear you.

MR. LOOPE: All right. If anybody's caught with any of the pest, LFA, or a coqui, we require, by policy, treatment prior to coming to Maui. And we also inspect everything once it

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gets here as well; so it's inspected twice - once it leaves Big Island and once it leaves Maui. That's pretty much our role in this, in this process.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MR. LOOPE: It's all I got.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, I'm sure we'll have more questions from the Members.

MR. LOOPE: Yeah, absolutely.

CHAIR SINENCI: We also, well we had Mr. Michael Miyamoto here. Did he. . .oh, here, Mike, did you want to include any comments before questioning? Will you join us here? Thank you.

MR. MIYAMOTO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mike Miyamoto, Director of Department of Environmental Management. I have with me my staff, Tamara Farnsworth, who is in charge of our Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division. And I heard comments from Mr. DeLeon; and it's not our plan to take it over just to, you know, long-term, it's a requirement. So, if we end up managing the grant, that's fine. That was our intent. We would. . .we are not looking to take over the service, Dave. So, just to let you know. The good work they do will keep going. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Okay, Members, let's open the floor up for questioning to our esteemed panelists. Yes, Chair King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I have a lot of questions, didn't know where to start. Thank you for being here, Adam. So I'm going to start with you since you did the presentation first. And, had a couple questions. One, on the miconia, do you work with the watershed groups on the...addressing the miconia issue? Because I know that's, you know, they work on some of the invasive plant species. And so, how do you interact, and is it. . .you each have separate monies for that?

MR. RADFORD: So we do have separate monies, but none of the other watershed partnerships that are funded through Maui County funds work on miconia, because it's not in lands they're managing.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MR. RADFORD: We are keeping it out of the lands that they're effectively managing. So their focus is more the upper elevation, those pristine watershed areas that they're fencing and keeping ungulates out and doing other invasive plant work. But, because of our efforts, they aren't having to be tasked--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

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MR. RADFORD: --with miconia control.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So you're keeping them from having that problem?

MR. RADFORD: Mhm.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, good. So, I wanted to ask you about. . .because I really like the fact that you put that word "eradication" into your proposal. And you're looking at eradication, like, within five years? Is that what that indication is for the little fire ants?

MR. RADFORD: I think that that's feasible with little fire ant, I don't think that's feasible with coqui frog just given the scope and scale of the problem. I think it'll take longer than five years.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. 'Cause it. . .oh, so it says, next five-plus years, ensuring a coqui-free Maui.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So if we wanted that to happen, in less than five years, is that a money issue, to provide more boots on the ground, and more material that you need to spray? Or is it just a matter of, it's going to take that long because there's so much ground to cover and you can't do it? I mean, I'm just trying to figure out what we need to do to make sure that we're not just, you know, putting our fingers in the dyke every time there's a hole, and like, going over here, and fixing it —

MR. RADFORD: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --and then we go over here and then they're back over there and, you know. What actually would it take if we wanted to see eradication of coqui frogs and fire ants, say in the next four years?

MR. RADFORD: I, well, one of the challenges with that. . .well, let me answer that first part, I guess, of like, what would it take? What we think it would take to move the ball forward on that front and get. . .I don't know about in four years, but within pretty close timeframe, is about 4 million a year just for coqui. For little fire ant, it's about 250,000 a year. Because the way we're going to be able to control the little fire ant is via helicopter, and that is expensive. But one of the challenges, like, we've had is the ability to get an adequate number of staff on board that want to do the work. And so we've tried a lot of different ways to do that, and we think we have some solutions to it. In terms of working with different volunteer groups and actually partners, like, we have the East Maui Watershed partnership. We had all their staff work with us for a month last spring just to ramp up and make a big push with trained and experienced conservationists. And so there's. . .there is a kind of a carrying capacity question of, like, making effective use of the money and making sure that we can get enough people on the ground and the tools and talent they need to do the work. But what we think is

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that if we could basically double our current efforts, which would put our staff, just working on coqui frogs, at 24 people. Those are all field people, by the way. All 12 of them are field people. If we doubled it, we would move the ball forward, especially if we have community members, like who are here in the gallery, still helping us get the few frogs in their neighborhood so that we can get down in the gulches, and things like that, so...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. 'Cause I think what we're looking at is, you know, something that. . .how we could. . .a plan so that we could speed up the process, but still make it meaningful so that we're not just throwing money. . .we don't want to be just be throwing money at something and not being able to utilize it if we can't hire enough people. But we do want. . .I mean, I think I speak for all of us that, you know, we want to see a light at the end of the tunnel a little bit closer, and people being able to go back to their normal lives and not having to pick up coqui frogs around their house, you know, all day long for a month. So, you know, I'm supportive of that effort. What about re-infestation from inter-island, you know, inter-island travel or inter-island shipping? I mean, it's been mentioned before that maybe we should just ban all landscaping material from the Big Island. I mean, what's the. . .even if we could get to that eradication of fire ants and coqui frogs, you know, what's the re-infestation rate from the neighbor islands?

MR. RADFORD: I'll allow Mr. Loope to respond to that question.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Loope?

MR. LOOPE: I'm not aware of any recent reintroductions through inter-island cargo. We've had maybe one case in the last few years where somebody that was importing some nursery plants seen a frog jump out of a shipment, and we took that shipment and destroyed it. But I'm not aware of any re-infestations.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. 'Cause I know there was, several years ago, there was some fire ant infestation from some ferns that were coming from the Big Island.

MR. LOOPE: So, there was a little fire ant infestation that was being worked out at Kihei, and MISC has pretty much. . .we've baited over there and tested recently. The populations are very low.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So we've pretty much cut down on the re-infestation —

MR. LOOPE: Inter-island—

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --from neighbor island shipping. Okay. So, I'll yield for now, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Come back to. . . I do —

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --have some questions for Lori on Molokai, but I'll come back to that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair King. Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. Question for Adam from MISC. First of all, thank you for doing the outreach throughout the community over the last several months. I know you were just recently at the Makawao Community Association meeting educating our citizens up in Makawao that if we don't slow this runaway train down, coqui frog's going to be part of the Makawao community, which we certainly don't want. And thank you for responding to my question, if these coqui frogs have any natural predators; and when you responded with the word "snakes," that certainly put an end to that. But my question for you has to do with the revenue. Can you share with us any funding sources from the private sector that MISC would have in trying to slow, not only coqui frogs down, but other invasive species?

MR. RADFORD: Sure, I can do that. So, let's see. Well, generally speaking, we actually receive quite a few private donations, and we're working on expanding our private donor efforts. 'Cause we're actually receiving funds, really, unsolicited; so, sort of formalizing that aspect of our program. And we have received quite a few private foundation grants over the years. We—these aren't private foundation grants, necessarily—but currently have a Hawaii Tourism Authority Grant and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant. The Hawaii Tourism Authority one is for little fire ant work and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation one is for pampas grass control, another one of our major projects. But it's supporting. . . actually, it's going to support about \$80,000 in helicopter work; so, that's quite. . . going to help free up quite a bit of money. And we're always looking for other sources of funding. And I should just, I guess, clarify that we do receive State funding through a process with the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. This last year, we were allocated about 870-something thousand dollars. So and we do have several other bills still in process at the Leg. that would add another almost million dollars to MISC's budget, if they go through. One is \$650,000 for coqui frog related efforts, and others are related to miconia and invasive species work in general, as you heard about in testimony. So, we'll see. But we're always looking to diversify. And I do want to point out one thing that's going to change for us is that, historically, MISC received well over half a million dollars in federal funding, mostly for miconia and other plant work, to protect the national park, and that money is gone. So, we've had to make that up, that shortfall up.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you. Chair, one last follow-up question?

CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead.



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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: You know, earlier today we heard from a testifier about doing his part to address the coqui frogs. Have you seen an uptick with the residents addressing, you know, the problems right on their own properties as well as, not only with coqui frogs, but ant, I guess, fire ants as well and other undesirable things? I'm sure, with your education and outreach, I'm hoping that there is an uptick in citizen involvement.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah, absolutely, especially on the coqui frog front. The communities who are affected by coqui. . . actually, it's been interesting, 'cause we. . . that's kind of a change in our motto. Historically, we were sort of like super heroes, where it was like you call MISC, and we'll go change in the phone booth and run out and solve your problem. And, unfortunately, due to resource limitations, we've had to say to some communities, like, we aren't going to be there soon. I'm sorry, like, hopefully we'll get there, but not this month or in the next six. And so, it's been really encouraging to me to see communities step up, come back to us and say, like, oh, well okay, let's meet in the middle and work together on this. So we definitely have more and more community members helping on the coqui frog front. Little fire ant, we've actually always had a lot of support for that, and lots of school groups are out doing testing for us, and individuals on their own. I mean, that's how we found the Waihee infestation - was a girl had just taken a course through us, basically, on little fire ant identification and her mom got stung in the eye, and she said oh, mom, I think that's little fire ant. She actually identified it, knew how to collect it, preserve it, and submit it; and it was confirmed, little fire ant. So, yeah, more and more our partnership with the community is growing, and we just want to continue to provide as many staff as we can get on the ground, but the training, equipment, supplies that communities need to do the work.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hi. Hi, Adam. Okay. Did you mention that you have 12 fieldworkers?

MR. RADFORD: I did, but that, it was just for coqui frog team. So our total staff is 38. Right now, we have five vacancies; so that would put it at 43 when we're operating at full capacity. And of those, five are administrative: like myself, and our HR person, and two are outreach and education. So seven out of 43.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, are you having difficulty recruiting people?

MR. RADFORD: Definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is it because you don't pay enough?

MR. RADFORD: Probably.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So what do you pay?

MR. RADFORD: Our starting salary is 2,582 a month plus fringe benefits.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 2,582 dollars?

MR. RADFORD: A month. Yes, dollars.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: A month.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: A month?. Okay. And then I wanted to ask you, are these. . .some of these. . .are the major invasive species, like the plants, maybe even the ants, are they seasonal?

MR. RADFORD: No. They're active all year round, but in terms of, like, for coqui, for example, they're just not as vocal, but they're still there, and they're still reproducing all year round. They're not, like, in a hibernation or something. So, yeah, all the species we work on are essentially growing all year round; and that's why they thrive here, is that often, in their native ranges, they do have a dormant time of year, and that's not the case here.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But not all elevations, huh?

MR. RADFORD: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: They're not. . .they don't thrive in Kaanapali or—

MR. RADFORD: Right. Yeah, there's some like environmental conditions, like elevation or how much moisture is in a certain place. Like, if it's too dry, certain plants, or even, like, coqui frog, for example, they're not going to thrive in a really dry environment. So yeah, it does depend on sort of the geographic region. Like one of our targets, for example, is a grass called, pampas grass, I mentioned, it won't really grow below 2,000 feet.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see. Is there anything else the County can help you with to keep pressing, you know, in a very consistent and aggressive way to continue to control and eradicate these species? Besides funding, is there anything else?

MR. RADFORD: One of the things we have been talking about more, is having, like, we have our oversight committee, which I mentioned--actually, Mr. Loope is our Vice-Chair of that Committee--but we've talked about creating another type of committee that is more just like a community connectors kind of committee, to like, just...you all have the pulse of the community. So we would love to regularly visit and just know what you're hearing and address questions you may have and also get input on the direction we're going in

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a more regular way. I think one of the questions I was asked when we first came in, was, you know, how often does the County or County reps come see what we're doing? And it does happen, we do tours, and we meet regularly with y'all as much as we can. But maybe a different structure for kind of an advisory committee would be helpful, I think.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well maybe our Chair can do that. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Count me in. Ms. Paltin, you have some questions for the panel?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Few questions. Your plan for eradication of coqui frogs in the gulch, was that. . .did you go over that, for Maliko Gulch, specifically?

MR. RADFORD: The plan I had mentioned is a broader area plan, it's not really for the gulch itself, specifically. I could go through that maybe separately, at some point, or how we would actually go about that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, maybe if you can just email —

MR. RADFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --the details of that. I'd be interested. I was wondering if all the ISCs, like statewide, work together? Is it like, you know, if administration are going after grants, would it be helpful if all the ISCs kind of like how Maui Coastal Land Trust became Hawaiian Island Land Trust, would that be helpful thing for the ISCs to do, go statewide, or are you guys kind of competing for funds?

MR. RADFORD: We don't really compete for funds so much. And actually, you know, as opportunities present—like I just had a colleague on Oahu present a potential Federal grant that would suit both of our projects and needed a match and a partnership--and so we're always communicating about opportunities. I don't know so much about going quite the direction of the Land Trust; but, yeah, we certainly aren't, like, in competition for grants, necessarily. Together, I think we're pretty collaborative, in terms of how we get, particularly, State-funding allocations.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess I was, like, you know, it seemed like the perception was that more people are spending time in the office rather than in the field and if you could have one or few office people statewide to cover the office end or the grants end and then everybody else can be in the field, do you think that's beneficial or it's not a founded concern or...

MR. RADFORD: I think it would be beneficial. One idea we've had, not from a statewide perspective, but from a Maui, at least a Maui-based perspective, is to create a conservation campus, where. . .because it's actually. . .you're asking a great question, and it speaks to the fact that there's many conservation entities operating, just in Maui County, and almost all of us are like, on these lease ...short-term lease agreement, kind

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of, relationships. Where, like, if we could have longevity somewhere and all come together in a central base yard and share, like, data management capability, like some of our outreach and education, grant seeking and management, instead of each of us, basically, taking on those duties independently, I think there would be benefit in that. And so that would be something if, say, this body were interested in pursuing. . .our current location is on a University of Hawaii College of Tropical, Agriculture, and Human Resources property then so, I mean, that could be turned into something like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So more so countywide rather than statewide. I think, you know, Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve has similar problems where, like, you know, they want to be in the field, but they have to be, like, giving presentations and all, like that. One other question I had was, we recently had a presentation from the Department of Water, and they ran a whole bunch of advertisements, you know, partially to conserve water, but also, like, they're tasked with the protection of the watershed. And I was wondering if you had ever tried to partner with them on the advertisement of the watershed protection on invasive species that threaten our watersheds, so that they could get the two messages out one time?

MR. RADFORD: Yeah, that's a great idea. I have not, but I've been in my position a little over two years now; so, actually Auntie Lori might remember some of those efforts, if they occurred when she provides her comments. But, I mean, the other idea that's come up in the past that never moved forward—and I don't really know why, I don't know the background, unfortunately--but is like, even adding into some of the utility bills, like check here for a dollar for conservation on Maui, or it could be a specific project like ours or just a general fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One question for Mr. Loope.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Loope.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify that you guys' efforts was just mainly for cargo and not, like, interisland travel for passengers. And, or coming from the mainland, I know the inspectors inspect all the luggage's going to the continents, but not coming in —

MR. LOOPE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --and I was wondering if there was any —

MR. LOOPE: A good. . .sorry to interrupt.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --any plans to do interisland passenger inspections?

MR. LOOPE: Ok, a good distinguish. So, State Department of Agriculture don't do any luggage outbound. We do monitor interisland in the baggage claim every day, and we have had

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interceptions. A lot of the stuff has been stuff like lychee with little fire ants, stuff like that. So, we do inspect baggage claim as right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But not the carry on?

MR. LOOPE: Carry ons, we can, if we have probable cause. I mean, we can't, you know, force people to just give us their luggage. But if we see something that's a cooler or something that we've found in the past to have a commodity that we think might be a pathway, we can ask them permission. And if, you know, they grant us, we can look at it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How does that happen? Like, through your ag inspections that are going to the continental U.S.? Like, I mean, I travel interisland —

MR. LOOPE: Mhm.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --and sometimes I bring cuttings, and nobody ever approached me. But I, I inspect them before I bring them.

MR. LOOPE: So state law requires that cuttings and propagative plants to be inspected prior to leaving the island. The distinguishing factor...I guess the stuff leaving Hawaii, where they have that federal influence of...it's kind of a pinch point there when you get...interisland, everybody gets to baggage claim, it's really difficult. So we kind of have to use our, you know, our abilities to kind of target certain things like coolers or boxes, stuff that people would be transporting commodities that are known to have hosts of LFA or coqui, or also ROD like soil, and stuff like that, that's what we mainly target.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess my question is, like, where are you stationed? Are you —

MR. LOOPE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --like by the TSA or...

MR. LOOPE: We have a podium in baggage claim. I think it's by carousel 4? Well, we do have somebody stationed there every day.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I'll yield for now.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I have a copy of the audit that was done from last year, so was \$24,000, and audit is happening by Spire Hawaii, LLP. So this is, I guess, audit 60 days will be February 26. It's supposed to be done, but they probably didn't start on time. So it's going to be done by March, which is good, it'll. . .so we'll have it before budget. So, second question is, how much...or have you had a chance of requesting funding for this next fiscal year for MISC, for different projects? Do you have a budget amount that you're asking for?

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MR. RADFORD: Sure. And just along the lines of the audit, so, yeah, that's begun already. We've been working with the staff from Spire for about a week and a half or so now, two weeks, and we just submitted responses to their first round of questions on Friday.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good.

MR. RADFORD: So it's moving along. And they were very complimentary in what we submitted, in the thoroughness of our response. We might have overwhelmed them, 'cause I haven't heard back from them since Friday. But, yeah, our total request from the County this year is going to be a cumulative of \$4 million. It's \$2 million will be allocated to coqui frog for, basically, plant work, which is through the Department of Water Supply. We would like to see a request of \$500,000 entertained, and then a \$1.5 million request for all the work we do, so what we refer to as our General Grant through Environmental Protection and the Office of Economic Development. So cumulative of four, 500 from Department of Water Supply, 3.5 from the Office of Economic Development.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. And your...how do you say...UH Maui College is who you run your grants through, or they're. . .how do you say it?

MR. RADFORD: Manoa.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, UH Manoa?

MR. RADFORD: It'd be UH Manoa, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: UH Manoa.

MR. RADFORD: Mhm.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. With RCUH. And then, I like the idea of having a check off box. You, you know, help, want to conserve, you know, coqui frog. Or I bet you would get some interest with that. And that sounds like, is that something you need to do with State of Hawaii, it's not necessarily County of Maui. I've heard of other programs being funded through state taxes or...

MR. RADFORD: I think it would probably be a question for those different businesses like, you know, MECO or whomever to —

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. RADFORD: --which I haven't had those conversations with.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So something to entertain.

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MR. RADFORD: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes.

CHAIR SINENCI: In our second half of the meeting, we'll be going through the grant more. They'll be explaining more about the grant. So, maybe we could —

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: --save some questions for —

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: --for the second half.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Could you just briefly...my last question then, thank you, I will save the rest regarding that. So, on conservation program or your community outreach program, whatever you call it, can you explain the process so that people who are interested in connecting with MISC can find out how to do it or, you know, what would be required? I commend the communities, especially from Haiku, I think Dave DeLeon did it successfully with his community; and then, today, we heard from that gentleman who also testified, and he has. . .his concern is they can get certain amount, but they can't get the hard parts, right? So, but can you talk about your conservation program and how can we help those kind of communities so that we can eradicate in those areas, of the hard to get areas?

MR. RADFORD: Sure. I mean, the simplest way to start is just to reach out to our office, which you can just call, 573-MISC or 6472 or find us online, it's pretty easy, and start a dialogue and see where you are, where, you know, where is your community, what are the problems you're facing? And then, like, we have been dealing with, coqui in particular, but invasive species for, you know, many years now. So, we have a lot of solutions that we can share with communities; and actually, we do support those communities not only with information, but the training, the potential design of a system to help control your coqui frogs, or whatever, the tools, like, say sprayers or other things like hoses and things like that, and then supplies, like, for coqui frog, is you know, we use food additive mixed with water. So we actually provide that food additive to those communities so that they don't have to go out and buy it themselves. And so we try to get as many resources into those communities as we can and then also help them organize so that they can get on, kind of like, all on the same page, is the goal, as well as potentially—actually heard about a little bit in testimony—was some people not letting them on their property, but like how can we work together to get on all the properties. 'Cause if you have one, sort of, point source in your neighborhood, that's just going to be a recurring problem. This came up earlier in testimony. So, the best way to start is just reach out to us, and we're actually actively seeking out

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community leaders as well, in different communities, particularly around the Maliko Gulch area and trying to get these different groups the tools and resources they need.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Ms. Kama? Questions for the—

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR SINENCI: --panel?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to ask them in succession, and then they can answer it in succession, because I assume that it's not going to be that difficult. So, my first question is, how long has the coqui frog issue been an issue here on Maui? What is the population of the coqui frog in Maliko Gulch, specifically? And how long does it take for people to listen to the coqui frogs before you go tone deaf? And how long before eradication is complete, based upon your plan to eradicate or manage or control this?

MR. RADFORD: Okay. I think I got 'em. So how long have coqui basically been in Maliko? We believe that they first got into that gulch in the, like, late 1980s or early 1990s, although that was mainly up by Kaluanui Road, near the top of what's currently the infested area. There was a nursery up there that had them, unfortunately, and they sort of spilled over into the gulch. And then, in around 2006 or 7, we had some major rain events that subsequently washed the frogs down the gulch. What is the population in Maliko right now? Depends on where you are, it's not uniformly infested. There's actually some areas with no frogs or very few frogs, but at it's peak, it's certainly at or well beyond what's the research sort of carrying capacity per acre, which is 22,000 frogs an acre. There's some research that suggests that the frogs in Maliko and on Maui can actually be much more abundant than that; so, it's at least 22,000 frogs an acre. How long before that many frogs would affect your hearing? I don't know the answer to that question. It's a great question, and I appreciate you asking it. And it's one I will look into, but I think it would depend on the person and maybe even their home, like how their home is structured, if it's like single-wall construction, it'd probably be different than an insulated home. But I can tell you from my own experience, that when you're in the midst of the infestation in Maliko, it is incredibly disorienting. So, I don't know how long until you would a hearing loss problem, but probably not long.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm concerned about the children or the infants that might be born in that community; that's what I'm concerned about. And as we talk about this issue and how long it's been going on. . .I've always lived in Central Maui, so I don't. . .I mean, I didn't learn about coqui frogs until, I think I was campaigning. And it's like oh my gosh, these people. . .and I went up there just to campaign, and it's irritating to me. I was so happy to be able to leave and to come home, but I can imagine what it is like for these people to live up there. And when I think about children who are being born and what



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they. . .that is not. . .we gotta do something, and we have to do something soon. I mean, if they've been battling this from the 80's and the 90's, and it doesn't get better, it gets worse, we gotta do something. We gotta do something. And I'm not sure what that is, I just thought, maybe you could just burn it out, have a controlled fire and just burn and get rid of it. I don't know. I'm just thinking. I mean, it's a radical idea, but it's like, this is a radical issue. And so it takes radical ideas, I guess, I don't know. But I just can't, I can't imagine what it's like for people to live up there like that. So thank you for that answer, I really appreciate it.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Kama.

MR. RADFORD: If I may, Chair, just one —

CHAIR SINENCI: Sure, go ahead.

MR. RADFORD: --quick comment? I just want to point out that...so, actually, in 2006 or 2007, I believe it was then Mayor Arakawa asked us, ok, what's it going to take to get rid of the frogs in Maliko Gulch? And we said at least \$750,000 for the next five years, with declining costs after that. Here we are, you know.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: At 4 million.

MR. RADFORD: Two, just for coqui, to be specific. But, yeah, I mean, here we are with the problem that much greater, 'cause the reality is, you know, only in the last. . .I think in FY '16 was when the then Council put the 1.2 million into coqui work, and that was a huge ramp up. And so we have ramped up, but we're not quite there and it's going to take us a little while to get there.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Hurry up. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair? Can I make a comment?

CHAIR SINENCI: I got a couple questions, then, then we'll come back to...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just wanted to make a comment on that earlier question about —

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --your hearing, because my kids both live on the Big Island and nobody's lost their hearing. And I have two grandchildren who were born into that community. But, what happens is, you get used to it after a while; and that's what we don't want. We don't want it to be part of our landscape. We don't want to get used to that. I mean, you go over there and you do this at first, and everybody who lives there

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goes, what? You know, they don't even hear 'em anymore. But, that's what we don't want to happen over here. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair King. Yeah, I had just a couple questions for Mr. Radford. You. . .how high will the coqui frogs go up to, at what elevation can we expect them to stop?

MR. RADFORD: Well, on Big Island, they're just at or below Volcano National Park, which I think, in Volcano Village, which is about 4,000 feet elevation.

CHAIR SINENCI: So 4,000 on Maui would be at Makawao?

MR. RADFORD: That'd be Kula.

CHAIR SINENCI: Kula. So, okay. And then the second thing was, you mentioned earlier that you had newer ways or newer technologies of dealing with the Maliko Gulch. You talked about running some pipeline along the rim and then having some sprayers just kind of spraying into or along the top of the rim. Are you guys still planning that, and is that a new practice?

MR. RADFORD: That's a new practice. We've had a variety of pretty creative approaches to dealing with the Gulch for a while. The problem is, we just haven't had enough people actually to get out to go to all the areas we'd like to go to. But we have a high-volume sprinkler system that can put out, like, you know, a thousand gallons a minute at 110 psi and shoot all the way from the top to the bottom of the gulch. We have a gravity-fed pipeline system that runs almost throughout the entire gulch, where our crews can hike in and just carry a firehose and a nozzle, plug into the pipeline wherever they need to, where they hear the frogs. So we have infrastructure and tools available and in place, we just need enough people to go use them all.

CHAIR SINENCI: Has that been effective compared to the rate of reproduction of the coqui frogs?

MR. RADFORD: Yes, it has actually. We worked with researchers from University of Utah to determine the efficacy of, particularly, our sprinkler system; and so their findings were quite supportive of that. And their recommendations were the ones I've described of just, you need to get back on a regular basis, keep going, work from the top down, you know, and that's what we'd like to do. We just aren't quite there yet.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you. My next question is for Mr. Loope. Mr. Loope, how many personnel do you have at the airport, at the Department of Agriculture?

MR. LOOPE: We have 11 inspectors total.

CHAIR SINENCI: Eleven? Has that increased in the last four, five years?

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MR. LOOPE: We've increased, we've filled our positions. We filled four positions in the last two years, and we have one vacant position we are hiring for right now.

CHAIR SINENCI: One more, okay. Thank you. And then my question for Ms. Buchanan was, did you say that you had one coqui frog on Molokai? It seems like a lot of 'em is axis deer and some of the invasive plants. Did you guys find any coquis on Molokai?

MS. BUCHANAN: Actually, Chair, thank you for the question. We've successfully intercepted eight coqui frog on Molokai from the time we started to now. And all of that was pretty much attributed to the community of Molokai calling in, reporting, and then some even volunteering, picking up loads of plants at the Young Brothers and driving straight to our office for us to take a look at them. Because I don't know if the Council is aware that the island of Molokai has no ag inspection, we don't have any ag staff. So, MoMISC inadvertently fields all of those types of ag-related and terrestrial-related and marine-related. We're also doing jellyfish in a designated swimming area at the wharf. So we're kind of the catch all; and that's what MoMISC is and that is what the Invasive Species Committees are. 'Cause we're like nobody's baby, yeah? We're not an agency; but it's also makes us successful, because of that flexibility in order to respond. So thank you for that question, 'cause we always looking for frogs. We always looking.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Very quick question to Adam. Have you asked the Governor to bring in the National Guard? And then it'll be only. . .you'd be on Maui, get rid of Maui's invasive species, go to the Big Island, and any place else that's needed.

MR. RADFORD: No, I haven't made that request. And, I don't --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, it seems like an emergency to me.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I think maybe you might consider that, yeah?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

MR. RADFORD: Sure. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, Chair Lee, I like that idea. I think we've heard from the Members and especially from our testifiers that there is really a need and an urgency to address these issues. And I think the reason why people have so much concern about this is, it seems that we want to put our tax dollars towards the most effective ways of doing these things. And as policy makers, I think we have to really look at, you know, possibly. . .I don't know if possible, temporary moratoriums on things about transporting green waste

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about the islands or transporting certain things from. . .we've definitely got to look at the ramifications on some of our agro businesses, how would something that affect that? But we definitely need to step up our efforts and look at some really. . . some effective ways with dealing with this, 'cause I definitely don't want coqui frogs in Hana. Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. If you'll allow me to just ask one question--I'm not sure what your intentions as far as our afternoon break --

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --but if you'll allow me just one question for Ms. Buchanan. Thank you for coming here all the way to us from Molokai. And I didn't want you to go home without a question from me. Just, you know, on your last page of your presentation where you had, you know, "So What Now?" and you had a listing of all, I guess, the things that are of concern. One thing that I was pretty curious about, the concern regarding bees and rabbits. Bees, I know, there's a concern worldwide about their population now, maybe on Molokai, what is the concern there? Is it that these bees are very aggressive and dangerous? And then the rabbits, I'm just guessing maybe the population issue like that of the axis deer? If you could clarify?

MS. BUCHANAN: The bees. . .and it's also a good question for Mr. Loope here, because we were trying to. . .the State of Hawaii's always looking for Africanized honey bees. So early detection at ports of entry that usually fall under the Department of Ag--remember we said, no more Department of Ag, Molokai--so the MoMISC had temporarily taken over the early detection of Africanized bees at the Molokai airport. However, the Department of Ag, statewide, somehow lost their apiary professionals statewide; and I believe that they were trying to restore the program. And so, with that, we discontinued because the expertise to, you know, look through the bees. . .and he can expound on that. And then, again, rabbits. You know, rabbits have been problematic throughout the state. And so we were getting a lot of reports of feral rabbits. And so, once you start jumping from coqui frogs to rabbits or mammals and deer, under the University of Hawaii, it puts out a whole 'nother issue with liability and how you going control those types of vertebrates. So, this presentation and this, what you have in front of me...in front of you, we actually did for MISC, I think about a month ago. And so we were preaching to the choir. And we just threw out a lot of data on Molokai. But maybe, when we have more time, I can answer all of the questions that you folks had earlier. But that's about it, that was why we put rabbits on there. I should have had peacocks, red vented bulbul, a whole. . .oh and we get red vented. . .yeah. So that's just concerns and what we really wanting to work on. Thank you for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you for the clarification, I appreciate that. Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair King?

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. I wanted to ask some questions of our esteemed member from Molokai. Thank you for being here, Ms. Buchanan. So on your presentation, the first page that ends in coqui frogs, are those all things that you've eradicated or...it looks like they've been fairly successful.

MS. BUCHANAN: The meeting goals?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, the list. Yeah, the meeting goals list.

MS. BUCHANAN: Well, we wanted to convey what the priority species were for MoMISC, and in case Adam wasn't really clear, our Committees drive our work. They provide the guidance and oversight. So, we're just not in a bubble making our own decisions. And so, for Molokai, the priority species is coqui, as well as miconia.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. 'Cause I...

MS. BUCHANAN: Even though we didn't find any miconia to date on the island of Molokai and we don't know of any naturalized populations of coqui frog, except the eight that we caught. So, but it's still a priority, because you can see that it is such a huge problem.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So all these that are. . .this list of nine things, those are all things you've found on the island?

MS. BUCHANAN: Oh, okay. So...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: The one...the list that starts with albizia.

MS. BUCHANAN: Yeah, it starts with albizia. They're pretty much species that are gone or nearly gone —

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

MS. BUCHANAN: --or eradicated.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So then the list that says, "Concerns," are those ones that are actually there that are still, like our running concerns, the Australian tree fern?

MS. BUCHANAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. BUCHANAN: Yeah. They're growing concerns. They're not actual priority species, but we're at a point in time where the feasibility of taking them on or continuing to use funding for them, it's up to our Committee whether we continue to work on them or not.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then how much funding does MoMISC get per year from the County? Or total and then from the County of. . .how much of that is County?

MS. BUCHANAN: Well, Adam just told me that. Adam, you want to tell her that?

MR. RADFORD: Thanks for that question, it's a good question. So, the Molokai program is getting about \$278,000 a year —

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh. Okay.

MR. RADFORD: --to run their program. And that's for all their staff, for. . .we typically do an annual survey for miconia in Molokai watershed areas. And other. . .rent, utilities, and things like that --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: --supplies.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And you manage that?

MR. RADFORD: Yes, we manage that out of our office here on Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So that's over and above what MISC gets, or is that part of...

MR. RADFORD: It's included.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, that's part of your budget, is...

MR. RADFORD: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MR. RADFORD: Mhm.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Members, if there are no more questions and no objections, the Chair would like to defer this matter.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

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CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. And so seeing as we've passed our mid-meeting mark, the Chair would like to take a ten-minute break. We have a second item, after the break, the Grant G4814, concerning the eradication of coqui frogs. And so we'll continue those. And we also have Kay Fukumoto from OED that will join us. But we did want to mahalo Mr. Loope from the Department of Agriculture for joining us and answering some of our questions. Okay. EACP is in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 3:21 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 3:35 p.m.**

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .(gavel). . .

**ITEM EACP-19: GRANT G4814 (UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII) COQUI FROG ERADICATION**  
(MISC)

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Members. The February 26, 2019 meeting of the Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee will now reconvene. It is 3:35ish. Okay. For our second item, Grant G4814, the University of Hawaii Coqui Frog Eradication, EACP-19. Members, at the February 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting, the Council referred this grant to the EACP Committee. Grant G4814 is between the County of Maui and the University of Hawaii in the amount of \$750,000 for the coqui frog eradication project for the Office of Economic Development. Chair has decided to schedule this item on today's agenda, since we have representatives of MISC here in the Chamber with us. The project summary states as follows: The purpose of this project is to continue coqui control operations to ensure the ultimate goal of a coqui-free Maui. The Maui Invasive Species Committee has implemented a comprehensive control strategy for Maliko Gulch but needs ongoing support for labor and supplies. Support is also needed to respond to outbreaks of frogs. Without support, coqui will inevitably spread through Haiku and will ultimately spread throughout Maui. The performance period for this request is October 1, 2018, to March 31, 2020. The grant documents identify quality of life, economic and environmental impacts, if the spread of invasive species is unchecked. The documents also describe the last major stronghold of coqui frogs in Maliko Gulch, where they have spread down a four-mile stretch from the top of the gulch to its terminus at the ocean. Members, I would like to request any opening remarks on the, on the grant from the Office of Economic Development, Ms. Kay Fukumoto. We'd also like to welcome from the Department of Finance, Ms. Alibin. Welcome.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Good afternoon, Chair; and good afternoon, Councilmembers. I'm just here to answer any questions you may have about the grant. There's currently two approved grants - the 2018 grant and the 2019 grant. So, the 2018 grant was \$750,000, and the current balance is \$428,000, approximately, still available. It was executed on February 8, 2018, and the performance period of the 2018 grant was December 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019. And the 2019 grant was executed on November 28, 2018, with a performance period of October 2018 to March 31, 2020.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Just for clarification, excuse me. Members, the grant is listed under Miscellaneous Communication on Granicus. Continue, Ms. Fukumoto.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Unless there's any questions about the grant, specifically.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, just a question. So, you mentioned that the 2018 Grant was \$750,000. How much was the 2019 Grant?

MS. FUKUMOTO: The same.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, it was 750 and 750 —

MS. FUKUMOTO: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --so 1.5 million. And then there's 428,000 leftover from the first grant —

MS. FUKUMOTO: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --that we still haven't spent? Okay. So we have over a million dollars in between these two left in the next period. Does it all need to be spent by 2020, that March date that you gave us?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Well, you know, there is a performance period for the 2018 grant that expires March 31<sup>st</sup>. You know, unless we extend that grant, you know, typically, the grantees would use all of the funds. The 2019 grant, obviously nothing has been —

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. FUKUMOTO: --spent.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So we have basically one month to spend the remaining 428,000. Is that possible?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Well, the amounts. . .the last invoice was on December 11, 2018. So there's still, I'm sure, charges. You know, we pay based on the invoices and the actual expenditures, so...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. So is that possible to spend out that amount by the end of this March? Okay. You're nodding your heads; so I'm assuming you've found people that. . .you found extra boots on the ground.



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MR. RADFORD: Do you mind if I just comment on that briefly? So, the way the grants work is it's a reimbursement process. So, it was mentioned, you know, when the invoice...like, that money is basically already spent. So like, on our end of things, that account's actually pretty well spent down. We're well on track to be done by the end of March.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. You just haven't invoiced it yet?

MR. RADFORD: It just hasn't shown up on the County side of things yet.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: So the University hasn't, you know, there's still invoices pending and then reimbursements to be made.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But the University knows that you've spent it all and that invoice is coming.

MR. RADFORD: It's all just pending process.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just a comment, Mr. Radford, can you go ahead and explain the performance dashboard on page four of ten, the items listed in the grant? Performance measures?

MR. RADFORD: Yes, I can. Thank you for that question, Chair. That's a great question. So, the dashboard for all of our Office Economic Development grants actually came about just a few years ago, then we worked with the then staff and Director to develop the dashboard, not only for the coqui frog proposal and ultimately grant, but for our OED general environmental protection grant as well. So, one of the things that to point out with this dashboard is that we generally have broken out performance measures by, like, Maliko area, versus the rest of Maui. Because coqui work is also in our general environmental protection grant. So, as Auntie Lori mentioned, like, for catching eight frogs on Molokai or doing other coqui-related work, that's covered in the general environmental protection grant. So in this dashboard, we've tried to focus mainly on metrics that are most relevant to the Maliko Gulch and surrounding area. And so do you want me to just run through 'em all?

CHAIR SINENCI: Please.

MR. RADFORD: Sure. So, the number of properties, so that's based on the tax map key where work occurred; and, ideally, we'll start to see that number go down over time. I think it's reflected here as going up from a low of 129 to 265, so 129 in 2015, 265 in 2018. I think that's largely. . .that actually corresponds quite well with when we got an influx

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of funding from the County to ramp up efforts. So we started, logically, working on more properties. Number of site visits? So that's how many times did we go to any one TMK or property. So, we could have gone to the same property ten times, and I mentioned, trying to go back to properties at regular intervals to break the reproductive cycle, why we thought that was a relevant metric, was, if you're only getting to a property zero or once in a given year, that's not as effective as it could be or should be. The acres treated, I think, speaks for itself. That's the number of acres in that area where we've applied the citric solution mixed with water. The staff hours, that is actually time on a site, like it's time at a property doing work. So, what is unfortunately not captured there, is the time it takes to prepare to go do that work, and/or like if they're sick for the day or on vacation or whatever, that's actually not captured there, that's just time on site. 'Cause what we want to get at is knowing well, how many hours does it take to clear, like, an acre or a property, and being able to have numbers tied to that. And that's how we plan our budget and our strategy is to constantly revisit those kind of questions to produce tangible budgets that are based on effort and output. Number of residents assisting with control, I already have spoken at length about our community engagement, empowerment programs, and we just want to see that number keep growing as we continue to grow that program. And then that's also, I mentioned, supplies for residents, and that's pounds of citric acid distributed to residents, that's what that is. And I will highlight that. . .oh, I should mention one more thing here, is that this dashboard is based on the County fiscal year, not the calendar year. And for pounds of citric acid distributed, I think December alone was like 13,000 pounds. And I think that's the result of us having brought on a full-time person to just lead our community engagement program, which she just started a few months ago. And so already, we're just seeing this huge ramp up in effort from our communities, and then, of course, they need the tools and equipment and supplies to go out and do that. And then volunteer hours donated for habitat removal or control? That's volunteers out doing the work, but we do make pushes, as can be seen in 2017. We had a big push where we brought in a lot of school groups to help us with coqui control; so you'll see that reflected here in some of these numbers. And the number of outreach activities, these are just activities specific to coqui in particular, coqui frog in Maliko Gulch area.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Radford. Member Sugimura, you had some questions pertaining to the grant earlier.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I really was gathering information, based upon our previous discussion. But, I wanted to know OED's opinion. It was brought up by a testifier to have maybe the Department of Environmental Management manage the MISC grant, as it...it sounds like it could be more targeted and related, but I would like to hear OED's comment on it. Right now, it sits with OED, and I think there's a lot of departments. There's Water. . .how many different departments does MISC have? It's OED plus...you have Water Department...

MR. RADFORD: Two. We have two County grants.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Two County?

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MR. RADFORD: Yeah. Department of Water Supply and then we actually have two grants under the Office of Economic Development. So three total County grants.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Three total. So I was just wondering if it would make sense to, I don't know. Water has to be separate, but if the OED one could be, you know, moved to the Department of Environmental Management with Ms. Farnsworth?

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Fukumoto.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura, for the question. Having started this position on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, I understand that the grant itself was put into Office of Economic Development because of the fact that we do, within our Department, we process close to a hundred-something grants. So, I think there's a good working relationship with our Environmental Coordinator who is within our Department. And what we have done, you know, starting January, in this new Administration, is to have her review all of the environmental grants, because this is not...this is just one of them. But she is reviewing every single environmental grant. She will be monitoring the environmental grants. So, you know, with that in mind, if she remains within our Department, it would make sense to have the grant remain in our Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, thanks for the clarification, that's good to know. Because I'm sure then MISC must have an existing relationship or, easily, falls into a relationship with this new Administration. I'm glad to hear, as I said earlier, that this audit is happening, and I look forward to seeing what it says in March, whenever the audit is done. And the reason is because during the last term, the reason that the audit came up as a way of possibly at how can we make MISC more efficient is because there was. . .that's why I wonder if OED is the right place, because there seemed to be, at the time, a misconnect with what was happening with the grant at OED versus what I had spoken to MISC about what they were actually doing. And the disconnect was the number of workers in the field that was reported in paper with the grant versus what was actually happening. I think that was what caused the reason to have the audit. So, you know, that just made me think how, you know, why is it that MISC is actually saying there's more people on the field and yet OED was saying there was like seven people. It was some really nominal number. I don't know if Adam wants to answer that.

MR. RADFORD: I don't have an answer, more just a point to that. So I mentioned, when I ran through this dashboard even, how hours, our hours on-site; and so we're actually going to modify the reporting going forward to reflect total hours. I think that might be part of where that misperception came from was, I'm not sure, but anyway. Just a point to make that the hours actually, for each project, are significantly more than what is in that dashboard.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that was the, yeah, that was the cause, you know, to do this audit. And if the audit is going to then reveal, you know, better things to understand how the project is working, then I'm glad. You're working with them already.

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'Cause I was kind of concerned when I heard that, because we have such a big problem. But thank you. That was my thoughts on the audit, and just trying to figure out how to make it work better, the departments.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Member Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. So, Adam, so this...for this fiscal year, you have 750,000 from the County...well, from Economic Development, and 500,000 from the Water Department?

MR. RADFORD: The Department of Water Supply funding, we're actually still in contracting for the incoming funds. And right now it's for 250,000, but there was, there is an opportunity to get essentially an additional 250,000 put in as part of that contract. So it'd be 500 total, so we're working through that with the Department now. And then, for our two grants that are housed with the Office of Economic Development, that is one for coqui frogs, that's for 750,000. And then one that's just General Environmental Protection, it's, it's everything MISC and the Molokai program does, and that's for 895,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So 500,00, 750, and 800,000? 895? Okay. So, how much of that is spent down? Because you only have six months left, right? Or are they on different schedules, time schedules?

MR. RADFORD: They're on similar schedules. I think the performance period for at least the two OED ones are both, I think they're March 31, 2020, I'm pretty sure. Anyway, so, we're absolutely confident that we will spend that money down in a timely fashion, and we actually strive to not have any carryover. And it has come up, like, well, why have that long of a performance period? Like, why not just a year? And one of the reasons that we got to that place was that some contracting issues that have come up in the past. And so, often, like, we'll put a performance start date of December 1, but it's actually pretty rare that we'll have a contract in place by then. And that's not the fault of any one party, but it's a slow process for the back-and-forth with the County and then the University.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Any particular reason why you don't start your fiscal year same as the County, July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>?

MR. RADFORD: I think that that is due to when funds are made available and known to be...that's just how the grant process has worked in the past. Like so for example, with our OED, the general environmental protection grant, the applications for those weren't due until, like, September or so, October, something like that. So, anyway, the application process in the past has been typically in the fall. So, for example, if we were to get on track to be, like, July 1, that process would have to start in, like, May, probably, I suspect. I don't know if you'd like to comment on that, just the timing.

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MS. FUKUMOTO: Because we're working with the University of Hawaii, you know, and it's not just the organization, whenever there's contract. . . recommended changes from OED, it has to go through the University of Hawaii system. I know there were some issues with a current request. Just some language changes and, you know, because it has to go through the UH system as well, it takes much longer to get the completed contract.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, it just seems that it's very complicated, to say the least. Because, you know, our department grant, we must have had about 200 grants, and everybody started at July 1<sup>st</sup>, you know. Because can you imagine, if everybody had different start and end dates? I mean, you know, it would drive the department crazy. But then I'm sure that's a challenge you can handle. Okay. The other question I wanted to get to was, okay, so you get a bunch of money from the County right now, 895, not counting the balance, which you said is already earmarked from the previous year. So the new money's about 500,000; 750; and 895, right? Okay. So what do you get from the University, from the State?

MR. RADFORD: State funding this last year was, I think, 873,000-something.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And the Federal government?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, Federal, zero. I mean, we got, say, the most relevant grant would be a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which is not Federal, it's actually a foundation, but that was about \$95,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And then other private donations?

MR. RADFORD: Around \$10,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Ten thousand, okay. I'm just surprised that you're able to operate your ship with monies coming in at all different times, you know; so that must be difficult for you. All right, I think that answers most of my questions, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

MR. RADFORD: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Okay. So the 750—I guess I'm confused about that 750—that's not from the University of Hawaii? So that's County money, but what does the University of Hawaii have to do with that? Why do we need them involved in it if it's County funding?

MR. RADFORD: That's a great question. Thank you for that question. So, why the University is involved is, I mean, we're a project under them, and that, you know, is how our grants

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are funneled. And I think that what's come up in the past is like, well why not just have MISC, like, create its own non-profit...or --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

MR. RADFORD: --maybe go through another non-profit or something like that. And, I mean, when we've looked it, it's still something we strongly consider, but it just would be...it would take time and it's a major investment in terms of insurance, human resources support, the scientific expertise and consultation we get with the University; and those types of benefits are, are pretty massive. I mean, for example, like, we use helicopters a lot. Helicopter insurance is quite expensive, and so that would be cost...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So you don't have to pay for that.

MR. RADFORD: We don't pay that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You don't have to pay for scientific expertise or you still have to...

MR. RADFORD: No. We don't pay for that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So that's included. So...

MR. RADFORD: In all of our, like, hiring —

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: --or firing and all that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -But they're not...are they taking an admin fee? 'Cause I know it's usually, can be up to 40 percent that when you go through the university. They don't take an admin fee?

MR. RADFORD: They do take an admin fee, but it's 15 percent total.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Fifteen percent?

MR. RADFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That's pretty good for the university.

MR. RADFORD: And it's rarely actually 15 percent, because we're able...we have the capacity with our project to do some things that they do for other programs that we don't need —

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: --like payroll and stuff. And...

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Are they the overseeing agency then for all of the different islands' ISC's?

MR. RADFORD: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So everything goes through one entity and it gets funneled out. So, there's a bill in the State Legislature right now for some additional State funding for invasive species, is that still alive?

MR. RADFORD: I believe so, yeah. Lori's nodding yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And if that passes, what will that add to MISC on top of what we already...

MR. RADFORD: The last I looked was, yeah, well, right now there's not dollar amounts tied to those bills. And then the other is --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, it's just got that blank underline with the 2050 date on it?

MR. RADFORD: And the other issue is, we're not clear, meaning my project is not clear, on who would get that money. It's not necessarily outlined to say, like Maui Invasive Species Committee's --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: --going to get this funding.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Does it designate that it goes to the University of Hawaii or does it...is it trying to create a separate entity?

MR. RADFORD: It's not trying to create a separate entity, but I believe the language indicated to me, anyway, that it may just go to the State, and that could be, like, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, it could be University of Hawaii, I'm not sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So, it just says "invasive species," doesn't name, like --

MR. RADFORD: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --any of the Committees. Okay. I actually have one more question that's unrelated to the funding. But I wanted to ask it last time and I forgot. Have you guys ever looked at sterile frogs, like releasing sterile frogs into the system? Is that a possibility? That seems like it would be something the University would be able to support on the genetic side.

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MR. RADFORD: We've asked researchers about that, and they're pretty hesitant to pursue that, because amphibians are declining around the world, actually, for a variety of reasons. And so there's a lot of concern if you introduced, you know, a genetically modified frog or something similar and it got out of Hawaii, what kind of impact that would have around the world.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But if it's sterile, it's not going to. . .I mean, if the idea is it's just not going to. . .we don't want it to multiply, then...

MR. RADFORD: So the ones I'm familiar with, the research that's been done is, looking at it's, like, it's like a gene trait that would present several generations later. So they are, they're sterile like the third or fourth generation...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: How would you have a generation if it's sterile? The whole point...

MR. RADFORD: They can reproduce for so many —

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, they can?

MR. RADFORD: --and then the gene will present itself, and then it's a sterile frog.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

MR. RADFORD: That's how it spreads throughout the...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just do a mute frog.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: What's that?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: A mute frog.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: A mute. Like you produce one that doesn't make a noise. No, anyway, I just thought that was interesting, because I know they looked at doing that with certain mosquitos and things like that, so...but I didn't realize it was a, necessarily, a genetic thing. I thought that was just, like, you know, okay. Anyway, I think it's interesting that we look at those possibilities. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Mr. Molina, did you have any questions for the panel?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Chairman. A lot of my questions were answered, but just one, in particular, just with regards to the use of aircraft. And I know you mentioned helicopters, and I think you responded to the question, something similar to that at the Makawao meeting. Are you continuing to explore that possibility of maybe using some of this monies, if it's appropriate, for using a crop duster of some kind to



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assist with spraying--'cause I know you have only so much personnel on the ground, I guess you could call them "foot soldiers," if you will--and maybe attack this from expanding the airborne attack, so to speak. Can you comment on that? Maybe getting help from the State, in that area as well?

MR. RADFORD: Yes, that's a great question as well. Thank you for that, Councilmember. So, in this grant, I would say, no, we're not looking at aerial expansion at the moment. It's something we have tested in the past, and I think we'll use in the future. But, right now, I don't think it would be an effective component of our plan, given where the frogs are. Like, if we had 'em pushed back enough into the gulch, then it might be more appropriate at that time. But right now, not so much. And so, we have looked at a variety of configurations to do aerial application, and like crop dusters or different things like that, and one of the issues is getting an adequate amount, volume of the solution, to penetrate the canopy and get also down to the ground. A lot of the canopy in the gulch is actually pretty tall stature. So that's one of the challenges. So when we've done aerial trials in the past, we actually used similar approach to wildland firefighting, where you see the bucket underneath the helicopter; and that was as effective as the pilot was patient. So, if the pilot was patient, it was very effective; if the pilot was relatively impatient, it was less effective. And the other problem is that with most aerial applications, you need to do 'em in the day for safety reasons, and the frogs are active at night and, you know, are most exposed to toxicant at night; so that's one of the limitations we have. We have consulted with some organizations that operate C-130's on the east coast, and so that we'll still carry that conversation forward. But haven't found an option yet that'll work yet.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I understand with the use of a plane such as a C-130, the cost of keeping it on the ground, ready to go, it's pretty cost-prohibitive too, yeah?

MR. RADFORD: Very.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Paltin, did you have any comments, concerns, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was looking at the grant, and I was wondering, we heard from some folks in the community up there that they're helping with the eradication efforts. And I was wondering, is that not considered the in-kind or, like, volunteer effort's not considered in-kind? On page 6.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah, that's a good point. Yeah, it could be, yeah, if you could quantify it, yeah, the dollar amount for that. 'Cause, yeah, it's contributed time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So, like, when we did our grant similar to this, we calculated, like, volunteer efforts at about \$10 an hour, and then we tried to leverage it

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for more money. And I just was wondering if that's an option with this grant, or not so much?

MR. RADFORD: It could be. Yeah, no, it's a great suggestion. One of the issues we've had is with these match budgets, is the timing of them. Because--and this doesn't speak to in-kind, but probably maybe part of why it wasn't in there is that they require a pretty rigorous amount of documentation to, like, support anything you're going to put in a match grant budget, sorry, match budget. So, anyway, I imagine that's probably why I left it out at the time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. For us we did, you know, like for clean ups and like that, we just took a, before we sent everyone out, we took a group picture of, like, all the community members and that seemed to have sufficed; and then we had, like, a sign-up sheet and then, like, the hours that it was held. But I can see how it would be more difficult with the nighttime situation, folks going out every night, so...

MR. RADFORD: We have had challenges in terms of capturing that, because often also, we just are providing the equipment and materials. We may not even be out with the individuals, so knowing for sure, you know, how many hours or whatever; that's why we typically just, in the dashboard, like, we're just counting how many as opposed to that level of detail.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Kama, did you have any comments? No, None? We did want to recognize Ms. Alibin, and she's from the Department of Finance. Did you have any comments to add to our discussion?

MS. ALABIN: Aloha, Chair. May Anne Alibin, Deputy Director of Finance. The only. . .just to clarify, there's a question regarding the invoices. I did review the grant for Fiscal Year 18, and there is about six months delay in as far as the invoices being paid. The last invoice that was paid was for October 2018, and it was paid on December 17, 2018, and this is for the grant period December 1, 2017 to March 31, 2019. And just looking at historical grants provided related to this grant agreement, it's been a pattern of six months, because of the delay in executing the grant agreement for about three months and then invoicing, I believe, starts, like, that quarter. That's all I have, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Alibin. Members, I wanted to thank everyone for coming today, and for your questions, your concerns, and your comments. I think, you know, MISC has been the boots on the ground and been keeping the stewardship of our aina. And it just goes to show that we all need to be environmental stewards in our own communities. So we appreciate all of the work that you've done, and appreciate. . .at working...we look forward to working together, so that we can, you know, help the process and help our Maui, Molokai, and Lanai communities. So, with that, Members, if there are no objections, the Chair will defer this matter.

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COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

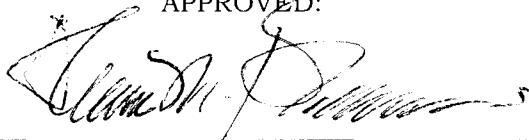
**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Radford. Ms. Buchanan, I think she left for the day. Ms. Fukumoto, Ms. Alibin, Ms. Thomson, for being here. Being there no further business before the Committee, this meeting of the Environmental, Agricultural, Cultural Preservation Committee is adjourned. Thank you. . . . (*gavel*) . . .

**ADJOURN: 4:10 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