

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 9, 2019**

**Kihei Community Center, Main Hall**

**CONVENE: 6:03 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair  
Councilmember Kelly T. King, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Riki Hokama, Member

**STAFF:** James Krueger, Legislative Analyst  
Traci Fujita, Legislative Attorney  
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary  
Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary

Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci  
Michelle Del Rosario, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King  
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King

**OTHERS:** Robin Newbold  
Amy Bond  
Karen Wright  
Kapono Naole  
Harry Johnson  
Amber Coutsos  
Phyllis Robinson  
Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka  
Julie Williams  
Patricia Rouse  
Tim Botkin  
Mark Guaglione  
Debbie Probst  
Michael Jokovich  
Coleen Rishovd  
Jean Keating

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

Kathy Becklin  
Mike Moran  
Andrew Beerer  
Rich Brunner  
Charley Lorber  
Scott Shapiro  
Jim Lynch  
Steve Slater  
Katherine Trotzuk  
Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez  
Jeff Heisel  
Nat Boyum  
Mary Trotto  
Colin McCormick  
Kelli Medeiros  
Daniel Kanahele  
Michael Ramos  
Kimokeo Kapahulehua  
Adele Rugg  
George Burnette  
Others (20)

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee, please come to order? It is 6:03 on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Mahalo everyone for joining us this evening. We look forward to hearing your mana`o. I am Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. I'm the Economic Development and Budget Chair. With us from our Office of Council Service Staff we have Mr. James Kreuger, Ms. Pauline Martins, Ms. Traci Fujita, and Ms. Clarita Balala. And I will now hand over the mic to your District Councilmember to introduce our Council, Chair Kelly King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Aloha. Thank you. Somebody did a really good job of guessing how many chairs to put out, but thanks everybody for coming out really appreciate having you here and to voice your concerns to all the other Councilmembers. So today we have I'm going to start from the end, we have Tasha Kama from Kahului District. . . .*(applause)*. . . Thank you for coming. We have Alice Lee from Wailuku District. . . .*(applause)*. . . Mike Molina from is it Upcountry? . . . *(applause)*. . . Makawao-Paia-Haiku. . . .*(applause)*. . . Tamara Paltin from West Maui. . . .*(applause)*. . . And then Keani Rawlins-Fernandez is the Chair of the Committee and she's from Molokai. . . .*(applause)*. . . So, you wouldn't know it because she's been here so often so, you know, she's really sacrificed a lot of her time. And then to my left is Shane Sinenci from East Maui. . . .*(applause)*. . . And Yuki Lei Sugimura from Upcountry. . . .*(applause)*. . . You probably see her at the Farmer's Market. . . .*(applause)*. . . And also I have today with me my Staff, Kate Griffiths who's at the end there and Michelle Del Rosario who just came back to my office a couple months ago so she's, these are the two ladies you're gonna get if you call our office. And so, again, thank you so much for coming out I really appreciate

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

it. And it means a lot when you come out and you just give us your mana`o and your voice in front of all the Councilmembers. It's a really different than just sending in a piece of paper so, know that we're really listening that I already informed our Committee Chair that I may change my priorities around based on what is said tonight so I'm really happy to hear what you guys have to say. Thank you very much and I'm sorry, did I? Oh yeah, we, Don Atay over here who is Shane's Staff Member . . . *(applause)*. . . from East Maui and I think that's all the introductions. I have to make sure I didn't leave anybody out. Okay, we're going to get, I'll had the mic over back to our Committee Chair.

**ITEM 1:                    PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
                                 OF MAUI (CC 19-61)**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Council Chair King. Okay. So just a quick reminder for everyone to please silence their cell phones and any noisemaking devices and we have one item on today's agenda and that is EDB-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for the County of Maui.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So we'll get started with public testimony on EDB-1. To testify please sign up with Staff at the table there. Testimony is limited to three minutes and upon request up to one minute to conclude. If you are still testifying beyond that time I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying please state your name and who you are representing. Please also indicate if you are a paid lobbyist. Okay. Okay and then Ms. Fujita, you're okay, and Ms. Fujita will be announcing the names two at a time so everyone can get prepared when they're next in line. Okay, Ms. Fujita, will you please call up our first testifier.

MS. FUJITA: The first testifier is Robin Newbold, Chair of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, followed by Amy Bond.

MS. NEWBOLD: Aloha, Chair. You probably need me to speak into this.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, and just a reminder to please speak into the mic. I mean we can hear fine but for the record it's important for our recording device to hear your testimony. Mahalo.

MS. NEWBOLD: All right. I'm Robin Newbold. I'm the Chair of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. We're a Maui-based of course and we've been in business if you want to call it that, for 11 years now. We're looking after the clean water, clean ocean water, healthy coral reefs and an abundance of native fish on our reefs. I'm gonna thank you for your support to date for the last couple of years actually for our community-based ocean water quality monitoring program that provides quality assured data useful to the State Department of Health for 39 locations from Honolua Bay to Ahihi-Kinau. Data is gathered every three weeks year-round by a team of more than 40 dedicated volunteers

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

and overseen by paid staff. Thank you, too, for supporting our pilot project to improve water quality in Maalaea Harbor. Our intention is to expand the program to include all of Maalaea Bay because coastal currents flow from South to West Maui and on to Molokai and Lanai, and so what happens in Maalaea does not stay in Maalaea. Our efforts to date have been focused on preventing runoff of sediment-laden stormwater from the Pohakea Watershed into the harbor by commissioning a stormwater management program which is this plan. In case any of you are sleepless some night and, oops, to guide our activities going forward. We're also working to improve water quality in Maalaea Harbor and surrounding waters through a pilot project to install native oysters in cages that will be hanging from the docks. As a filter feeder, oysters remove pollutants and bacteria that cause staph and MRSA. Based on the success of similar projects elsewhere in the United States we believe this program will benefit our near shore water quality and our local coral reefs. Our goals for 2020 are to implement recommended action items in our stormwater management plan; to reduce runoff from Pohakea; to expand our water quality testing program to include five new sites in Maalaea Bay; to begin testing of enterococcus bacteria in South Maui; and to improve water quality in Maalaea Harbor by introducing the oysters. The funding provided to the Marine Resource Council by the Office of Economic Development last year was fully leveraged through matching funds. It was used to hire additional staff and to fund programs. All County funding was spent here in Maui County, as was the majority of the matching funds that we received from groups like the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Today I'm asking for your continued support for the expansion of these programs by funding leveraged, by fully leveraged through matching funds. I'm sorry, today I'm asking for your continued support for the expansion of these programs by funding our proposed 2020 grant request for \$224,000 as a line item in OED's Environmental Protection Funds 2020 Budget. As you know, vitality . . . the vitality of our local tourism-based economy and the satisfaction levels of our full and part-time residents is based in large part on the health of our coral reefs and the safety and cleanliness of our coastal waters. Thank you for your continued support. We really appreciate it. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Ms. Newbold. It looks like we have two questions for you. Council Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for being here Robin. I wanted to, this is the 224 is encompassing West Maui, and South Maui, and Maalaea?

MS. NEWBOLD: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I know used to have two separate line items so it's good to just deal with one. But, I know you were working on putting together a lab. Is that still in your plans?

MS. NEWBOLD: Yes, we have a lab on West Maui at the Lahainaluna School.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, you do, okay.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MS. NEWBOLD: And they've been very generous giving us that space and we've been able to outfit it with funding from OED and other organizations over the last few years.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, great.

MS. NEWBOLD: We also have a lab in South Maui at the National Marine Sanctuary.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, great. Well, thanks for all the work you do.

MS. NEWBOLD: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KING: It's very important.

MS. NEWBOLD: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair King. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Robin.

MS. NEWBOLD: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you for your good work. Do you, have you also done work with visitor industry for visitor education?

MS. NEWBOLD: Yes, we got, we received funding from them this year. They asked us to partner with them or invited us to partner with them and we have several projects going on. One right now is to redo the signs that are located at many of the beach parks. The signs are old now and some of them are just illegible and others are just faded, and also, the information is outdated. We also have a project going on at the airport. We're putting up information for visitors as they arrive and there's several other activities that we're doing for visitors as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. I have one question just to follow-up on Member Sugimura's question. Would you be able to share with us how much funding you received from the MVB?

MS. NEWBOLD: I'll ask our accountant. Do you know?

MR. FOGARTY: I know we have one grant for 43,000.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Members, any further questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You want the guy to identify himself for the record?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, I'm sorry. Ms. Newbold, will you please identify your accountant for the record?

MS. NEWBOLD: Yes, that's Mike Fogarty. He volunteers his time. He's full-time, just about a full-time accountant for us and he takes us through our audit every year as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Newbold. Okay. Seeing no further questions, mahalo for your testimony this evening.

MS. NEWBOLD: Thank you, thanks for all you do.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank you for all you do. Okay. . . .(applause).  
. . . Ms. Fujita, will you please call up our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Amy bond, followed by Karen Wright.

MS. BOND: Good evening, thank you for your time, really appreciate it. It's nice to see all of your faces all in one place. Thank you so much. I am here in regards to the proposed changes for the property tax rates for this upcoming year this year and I'm in agreement with the Mayor Victorino's rates that he's proposed on this piece of paper. So, if these rates were to happen I'd be really happy with this, this sounds wonderful. I have a legal permitted short-term rental home in Kihei that's been operating since 2013. I permitted myself. I have a family, I, supports my family, I have three boys that are here tonight running around and so I'm not a millionaire, but we work very hard to have a small business. And, I have been informed that there was going to be a proposed rate of \$15.41 per thousand for short-term rental homes which would take it to a timeshare rate of this year which was proposed by the Budget Committee Chair and I'm not in agreement with that. I feel like that is a very, very, very high rate. My reason for that is short-term rental homes are a lodging unit, but we don't have spas, we don't have restaurants, gift shops, any other means to draw revenue from such as a hotel resort. We have a permit that is non-transferable. If I were to pass away it would go to my family, but, in the unlikely event if something were to happen to me and I had to sell my home the permit would not transfer. So, therefore, it's a limited permit. I feel that bed and breakfasts are exactly the same kind of rental or unit although there is a manager or the person who owns the property living on the property but not necessarily the owner of the property is there and so, and they're set at a much lower rate at \$4.55 per thousand. So, I feel that the current rate of \$9.28 per thousand is a fair rate and should be left as is or with only a raise of 10 percent or less. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and I hope that you will consider my input as you continue to craft the bill and the tax rates.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Bond. Members, do you have any clarifying questions for our testifier? Member Paltin?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Bond for being here tonight. I had a question. I wasn't intending for you to give me like specific number answers, more like, you know, general percent's or, you know, estimates. What I was wondering was like, for your short-term rental home business you know for yourself how much income you get from that and what you can afford and not. I was wondering if you could compare for me if instead of doing a short-term rental, you rented it out to local people, what would the percentage decrease be for you? Like for yeah long-term, for like say a year's worth of time? Just for your input, not – I just wanted to know.

MS. BOND: Right. Well my mortgage is \$4,300 a month, just the mortgage. So, in order for me to try and figure out what I would have to charge for rent for a long-term rental, I don't really think it would be cost-effective for me to be able to do that because I wouldn't be able to pay the bills, the water bill, the electric bill. I mean they usually cover the electric bill as a long-term tenant. But, --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, like, you would have to make rent to be 4300 and they pay all their own utilities and you would just break even and not make any money.

MS. BOND: Well, usually when you're a property owner you have a long-term rental you'd pay for the water. Usually the only things that they pay for are electric and if they have a cable bill or, you know, something extra but you pay for the landscaping, you pay for the water, you pay for the mortgage, pay for the insurances . . . and as a short-term rental you have a lot more expenses because you're also upholding the property value by maintaining things in a much higher level, I believe, than most people do for a long-term rental because everything has to be functioning every single minute all the time. Where I think if you have a long-term rental I think that people, you know, they don't tell you everything that's broken on a timely basis so, you really don't know what's happening necessarily. And it was choice for me, at the time when I permitted the house, I had been struggling to make the mortgage payment because I went through a divorce and it was right when the economy had tanked. So, for me, when the County came up with the legislature to be able to do that I took the opportunity to be able to permit my home to do it because I thought what a wonderful way to be able for me to make the mortgage payment and to turn it into something I could actually live off of, or actually – I could, we don't – there's no way we could actually live off of the money that we make. We don't make enough to live off of it. So, my husband, he works hard. He's a swimming pool contractor. So, without our two businesses we would still be, you know, struggling. Not on the street, but, you know, struggling to maintain a home when you have to spend half a million dollars just to get into a house on Maui. You know, that's a difficult number to maintain. You pay a lot more in mortgage and things here than any where's [sic] else. I mean not any where's [sic] else but, it's a high number to live here and when you raise children it's even higher.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for sharing your input.

MS. BOND: Thank you for listening.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Excuse me, I have a question, Ms. Bond.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry, Ms. Bond, we have another question for you. Member Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

MS. BOND: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I couldn't hear some of the responses. So, you said that you have a short-term rental?

MS. BOND: Yes, I do.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And what is the average occupancy rate?

MS. BOND: I would say my place is about 80 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, pretty good then, huh?

MS. BOND: It's good, but, I also manage it and maintain, I take care of everything as a manager. So, I'm the person that's always there to check people in and uphold, you know, the rules and everything that goes along with the property.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right. And can you tell me what do you charge for your daily rate?

MS. BOND: Yes, I can. It's a three-bedroom, two bath house. It's on a half-acre property. It has a pool and a spa and I charge 675 a night.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see, is that average?

MS. BOND: That's average, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's average. Okay, thank you very much, appreciate it.

MS. BOND: You're welcome.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Lee. Mahalo, again Ms. Bond for your testimony. Okay, Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Karen Wright, Site Coordinator at Kalama Intermediate STEMWorks After School Program, followed by Kapono Naeole.

MS. WRIGHT: Aloha, good evening. Sorry my voice is a little out. Alright, my name is Wright. I am a seventh grade life science educator at Kalama Intermediate during the day and then I also run Site Coordinator position after school for STEMWorks Program. And so,



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

I'm here asking your continued support for Maui Economic Development Board. Without them, honestly, education's constantly changing and so they support teachers as well as students with keeping up with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, providing professional development classes for teachers as well as many programs for students not just here on Maui but across the State. I do want to share just a personal experience. When I moved here from Arizona about six years ago I didn't have much equipment, and so this is just a personal story to share. And when I found out about Maui Economic Development Board, I was able to rent out as many science equipment as possible from their lending library. So, they have so many resources for teachers and students. I mean that's just an example. You know, and then we also with our after-school program I'm able to provide opportunities for teachers to expand their learning which will carry on for our students' future generations and providing opportunities for them to look at STEM careers throughout high school as they continue education as well as college and career readiness. And so, again, I just thank you for your time and thank you for listening and appreciate you if you can please continue to support Maui Economic Development Board as they continue to support education in our community. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony Ms. Wright. Ms. Wright we have questions for you. Member Molina?

MS. WRIGHT: I should check for frequent checks, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Aloha, Ms. Wright.

MS. WRIGHT: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I believe you had a fundraiser this past Sunday out in Haliimaile?

MS. WRIGHT: I did, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, that was really nice to see the work of the kids out there. And I believe Ms. Buckter –

MS. WRIGHT: Ms. Bucknell.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -one of the teachers with the robotics, yeah.

MS. WRIGHT: She's one of our teachers. We have six educators in our after-school program and then I'm the coordinator.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, and how much does MEDB set aside for your program at Kalama School?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MS. WRIGHT: So, specifically, we are a new program at Kalama, I just transferred there this year and I was so excited to hear that we could actually bring the program there. Right now, it's based, it's full support but the goal is basically coming from starting a new program and then my goal as a coordinator was like hey we could get some funds for our snacks and things like that. And so that was kind of the purpose as well as helping support travel because it's hard to find travelling funds for our keiki. So basically, the fundraiser goal for us was to support bringing 16 students to Oahu, May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, for the State, the Hawaii, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii State STEM Conference [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MS. WRIGHT: And so those type of side fundraisers will support us as a program to support families because it's hard to charge the families because it's pretty expensive. However, MEDB does support our programs as far as, like I said professional development, training us to train the students on what coding is, robotics, droning, agriculture, and those types of things and so they support the teachers. For instance, if there's a class for the teacher to take but it is on a day they will help support like a sub fee which won't come out of the teacher's personal pocket, things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, that's fine you're giving a me a wonderful, wonderful answer. But, –

MS. WRIGHT: So full support. Sorry, I'm just trying to give an explanation.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -from a government perspective we really appreciate you doing additional fundraisers on the side and I know it's tough to get monies from the Department of Education, so it's much appreciated. Keep up the good work out there.

MS. WRIGHT: Thank you, appreciate it.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

MS. WRIGHT: Are there any other questions or should I ask?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No other questions. But, you're obviously passionate about what you do so mahalo for all your contributions to our community.

MS. WRIGHT: Thank you, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for all your testimony tonight. . . .(applause). . . . Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Kapono Naeole, Project Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui, followed by Harry Johnson.

MR. NAEOLE: Aloha Councilmembers.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MR. NAEOLE: My name is Kapono Naeole, I am the Project Director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui. Previously I was at the Paukukalo clubhouse. Recently I been over to open two more sites in Kihei Elementary and Lokelani Intermediate, opening up this summer. I want to start by saying first off, thank you for your support our program and the many youth that we serve. Thanks to your help and the help of DOE we're able to provide a safe place for kids to go after-school, summer programs. While there each member receives a healthy snack, tutoring, mentoring, participates in one of our many different types of educational programs. These programs cover a wide range of interests, STEM, Hawaiian culture, sports, arts. One of our more popular programs at our Kihei Elementary side is a paint party that one of our staff puts on where they walk them through step-by-step through painting their own canvas art, mixing paints, using the right brushes, doing the background first, letting it dry and stuff like that. This is just one of the many examples of the kind of stuff that we do and it's all thanks to your guys help. As another example of the program is me. At the age of 11 I was a club member. My parents split up and bouncing between dad's house and mom's house they needed to put me someplace while they're working. Sometimes I would be, you know, left alone for kind of a long time. But, I always knew that going to the Boys and Girls Club there's always somebody there who cared about me. There's always something to eat, something to do, something to learn, and I've always thought that was a huge benefit and I'm here today because of the impact they made on me. So, again, thank you all for your support and thank you for putting energy into Maui's kids. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony, Mr. Naeole. . . .(applause). . . . Ms. Fujita will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Harry Johnson, Director of Transportation, MEO, followed by Amber Coutsos.

MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, Council. My name is Harry Johnson and I am the Transportation Director for Maui Economic Opportunity. I'm here to provide testimony in support of MEO's request for the current funding levels in the Mayor's Budget. MEO is a community action agency chartered on March 22, 1965, on the provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. In the last fiscal year, MEO served nearly 18,000 individuals and families, touching 54,000 lives. MEO administers more than 40 programs under five departments, of which, the Transportation Department provides a human services and paratransit transportation services. MEO's Human Services provides bus transportation for Maui County's youth, elderly, disabled, low-income individuals, persons with special needs, and disadvantaged individuals not served by public transportation. In the last fiscal year, MEO Human Services provided 320,300 trips on Maui, Molokai and Lanai. The ADA Paratransit Services provides bus transportation for qualified ADA riders within the three-quarter miles of the fixed route service. Last year the Paratransit Service provided over 80,300 trips for Maui island residents. These services are a vital lifeline for the clients that we serve. I want to thank

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

the County Council for their continued support of the MEO Transportation Program as well as the MEO Agency. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Johnson. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening. . . .(applause). . . Miss Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Amber Coutsos, Office Manager, Maui Chamber of Commerce, followed by Phyllis Robinson.

MS. COUTSOS: Good evening, Councilmembers. Like she said, I work for the Maui Chamber of Commerce. I'm here to testify in support of the Made in Maui County Festival. So, we support the grant funding from the Office of Economic Development for the Made in Maui County Festival. As many of you know, the festival is an annual event to showcase local manufacturers and their products. It's held on the first Friday and Saturday in November and participating vendors have to be headquartered in Maui County. At this time, when we're looking at better ways to sustain our community, supporting local manufacturing supports the creation of value-added agriculture products, supports higher paying manufacturing jobs, leverages visitor industry spending, and helps to grow our local small businesses. So, really I wanted to share some stories from some of our festival vendors who've participated in the past. I know that some of you know the Hongkyu department store came and visited our festival last year and they actually hand-selected a number of companies to participate in their Hawaii fair in Japan. So, there's a number of companies from the festival that are going this year to Japan. One of those is the Maui Cookie Lady and she actually just shared with us today that she hasn't even gone to Japan yet, but, the advance promotion of her company is already reaching millions on social media from this opportunity. In addition, one of our companies, Na Koa Brand, they went from a startup and now they have two brick and mortar stores, six full-time employees and five part-time employees. Big Wave Beverage Company said that they had updated their marketing strategy in preparation for last year's festival and have captured attention of mainland companies from that. Layla's Herbs from Hana said that she doubles her revenue every year of the festival. Hulalei Designs from Molokai attributes the festival to helping them land wholesale accounts across the State and realize the potential of her hobby and passion. HI Spice has grown their relationship with ABC Stores over the last two years as a result of the festival. Kanilehua Enterprises says that their participation in the festival has helped them to improve their branding, marketing, social media, and has helped them to become wholesale ready. These are just a few of the many stories we hear from companies who have participated in the festival and this funding helps to continue this work. In addition, the Made in Maui County Marketplace website which also gets funded from the Office of Economic Development from the small business promotion fund, it's a one-year one-stop shop website for shoppers to find past and present festival vendors as well as other local manufacturers who are again headquartered in Maui County. It's a great resource for promoting the manufacturers all year round. So, we appreciate your continued support and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much, I appreciate the community based economic development effort and I just was wondering if I had couple questions. If you could tell me the total cost of the event and how much is brought in by the vendor fees?

MS. COUTSOS: Oh gosh, I would have to get back to you on that exact number, I don't have it in front of me. We do get – the grant is 100,000 but it helps to keep our vendor fees low . . . it helps to keep the location at the MACC.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, yeah, to the EDB Committee.

MS. COUTSOS: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Amber for being here. Do you know if the MACC hosts the event? They host –

MS. COUTSOS: I believe they do. Right, we have it there every year, it helps keep the event higher quality, gives us plenty of space to have the vendors, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Is that part of the County's help with the event, they help to pay for that event?

MS. COUTSOS: The County does, I'm not sure if the MACC uses any of their funding to help pay for the event to help cover that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, seeing no other questions, mahalo for your testimony.

MS. COUTSOS: Thank you. . . .(applause). . . .

MS. ROBINSON: Aloha Councilmembers, my name is Phyllis Robinson. I am the Program Director for the Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program. That program is under the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation and under the Maui Chapters of the Hawaii Farmers Union United. I know there's often some confusion about that. I want to thank the Council for your continued support of our FAM program. We have and continued to benefit tremendously with our relationship with the four chapters of the Hawaii Farmers Union United. In fact, three of the four Chapter Presidents are mentors in our program which is very exciting, and our HFUU and HFUF President Vincent Mina is an instructor for the FAM program teaching our apprentices how to make Korean natural farming

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

amendments and how to apply them on their farms. So, we're in partnership with U.H. Maui College, the SLIM program, the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui, and the Farm Apprentice Mentoring program is in its fourth year of an intensive year-long effort to grow new farmers on Maui. Thanks to the County, FAM has been able to grow exponentially this year. The word is out, 51 apprentices applied for the FAM program, 37 were qualified, we only had funding for 25, we took them anyway. We're mounting a GoFundMe campaign that's starting up this week that's going to help pay for these other apprentices. So, FAM has almost as many apprentices this year as in all the other three years combined. So, why is that? Well we think it has something to do with our amazing mentors. In fact, we have 30 mentors now, 30 farmers, eight of whom are Native Hawaiian. Kyle Nakanelua, George Kahumoku, Bobby Pahia, Hokuao Pellegrino, Kaipo Kekona, Mikala Minn, Uncle Frances Sinenci and Viliami – go ahead, tell me again? Viliami Tukuafu, thank you. So, once again, obviously the word is out, there's currently a great passion on the part of young people and old for learning a special type of farming on Maui. The FAM curriculum focuses on Native Hawaiian and regenerative practices and as many of you know, we benefit so much from our mentors and the on-farm experience. The immersion part of our program is essential. It especially gives farmers without land the opportunity to immerse themselves on a mentor farm. So, I just have a few more minutes and I want to just step into my role as a citizen of Kihei and that is, is that I hope the Three Can Plan continues to be funded. It is a wonderful part of our Maui Meadows experience and I think we should continue it. And so, one last thing, thank you again for the support that this County has given to the FAM program. It takes a village to grow a farmer. Thank you. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Robinson. We have a question from Council Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Okay, Phyllis, so, your program is 440,000. You're asking for 221,000 from the County and then you've gotten the rest in others. But, I thought there was also a proposal for expanding to Molokai and Lanai? So, I don't think that's on here.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes, we were asked to remove that when we went in to the Mayor's office. He wanted to figure out a way to keep the amount that we would be given, down, and so, he suggested removing those two from our budget.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, you did that last year though didn't you?

MS. ROBINSON: Well, we tried to expand –

VICE-CHAIR KING: To Molokai?

MS. ROBINSON: -to Molokai but they were in the middle of layoffs and there was a huge effort on the part of the CTAHR and they'd gotten a grant to do workforce development, and they felt that that was enough for them right now and asked us to come back again this year. So, . . .

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, okay so what was that level of funding for the?

MS. ROBINSON: Forty-five thousand.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Forty-five thousand you could expand to Molokai and Lanai?

MS. ROBINSON: That's correct.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Council Chair King. We have a question from Member Sugimura.

MS. ROBINSON: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Nice seeing you.

MS. ROBINSON: Nice to see you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Nice seeing you. Nice seeing you. So, I was just wondering of your program for your – the apprenticeship program, what is it, hourly rate you pay your?

MS. ROBINSON: Fifteen.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Fifteen dollars.

MS. ROBINSON: Fifteen an hour for the apprentices in the immersion and then we pay our mentors 50 an hour.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Five zero?

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So those were the farmers that you mentioned that assist with the program?

MS. ROBINSON: That's correct, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And how many hours is it the apprentice?

MS. ROBINSON: Usually each mentor delivers about a four to six-hour hands-on experience that follows each of the modules that we have at the college. Yeah.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, nice seeing you.

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, it's nice to see you too, Yuki.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, I have a quick question.

MS. ROBINSON: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, for the 45,000 expansion to Molokai --

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -what would that entail?

MS. ROBINSON: What would it cover?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. So, what would it -- how many would it serve? Any kind of details that you can provide.

MS. ROBINSON: Sure. We were hoping that we could have five apprentices on Molokai and we also were hoping to, of course, hire local mentors and we would reach out into the community. I would probably go over there. We have some connections through several of our Farmer's Union members to talk to the mentors and see if they would be interested in providing that. And then, luckily, we have Zoom, maybe some of you all know what that is, but, we can broadcast to Molokai via the college and so, what we would hope is a sub-cohort would form on Molokai and that money, part of the 45,000 would be to hire a coordinator that would similar to my position. So that's what they would do is to help the apprentices when they're participating in the Zoom making sure that if they have questions because often Zoom can be a little impersonal and we try to make it not so. But, that's part of it, is the ability for them to participate in the classes and have a coordinator, yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. For that 45,000, was it expansion only to Molokai or was it to Lanai, too?

MS. ROBINSON: Lanai as well, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, so Lanai, five on Molokai, how many on Lanai?

MS. ROBINSON: Same.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Five on Lanai.

MS. ROBINSON: Mm-hmm.



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Five on Molokai.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Would there also be a coordinator on Lanai?

MS. ROBINSON: Yes. Mm-hmm.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that information.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes, of course. Thank you, thank you all so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, anyone with questions? Okay, seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening.

MS. ROBINSON: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka, followed by Julie Williams.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Aloha and good evening. My name is Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka. I'm the Executive Director of the Kihei Youth Center. I've been working there almost 16 years. Kihei Youth Center has been around since 1983, so we just celebrated 36 years. For some of the Councilmembers maybe just a few, every year I say this that I was a youth member when it first opened in 1983. So, I take great pride in still being part of the Kihei Youth Center. I'm very grateful and very thankful for everybody who put in the hard work and had the foresight to have the Kihei Youth Center and some of those people are still around and I'm very, very grateful and very thankful for them. Myself, as a mother of six children, I know, and I understand the importance of having a safe place for our kids to go after-school. My youngest son recently deployed to Norway as an 18-year old Marine and so I have no kids at home, And so with that said, the Kihei Youth Center had serviced my children and I'm thankful and that even though I worked there my kids were still part of something that gave them a sense of home and a place where they could meet new friends and participate in activities. So, I'm very grateful to the County of Maui for supporting us all these years and this current fiscal year the County has granted us \$276,054. We are currently asking if you could please continue to support us in that same amount for the upcoming fiscal year. We currently have 547 youth members. We have an average of about 110 members up to 150 youth members daily. Each and every day through our wonderful partnership with the County, excuse me, with the MEO Youth Transportation, our kids are brought to the center and we give them a free snack and on Wednesdays we provide them a free lunch

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

in addition to a free snack. On vacations we feed every youth member a soft breakfast, two free snacks and a lunch, and we could not have done this or continue to do this without the partnership of the Maui Food Bank. So, we're really fortunate not only for the County of Maui but for our other community partners and we know that we cannot rely solely on the County of Maui and it's our responsibility to get as much funds as we can, so we can become independent. But, as a 36-year-old organization I can say at 16 years that it is a struggle to get the necessary funding and we do rely on the County of Maui and others to help us. I invite all Councilmembers to come and visit us and to see the good works that we do but we cannot do it alone. We are thankful again for you folks, our other community partners, Rotary Club, Kihei Lutheran Church, UHMC Nursing, and so forth. The one thing that we do at the youth center and is at the forefront of our services is teaching our kids their ABCs and everybody here tonight is testifying for their nonprofit organizations or other things that we need to keep our community healthy and going. And the three components that we teach our kids each and every day is attitude, behavior and character. I don't care how rich you are, I don't care what job you have, what car you drive, where you live, it's all about the attitude, behavior and character. So, we know at the Kihei Youth Center if we can impose those values our kids are going to be okay. And our kids will be sitting where you folks are. Our kids will be where these folks are. We will be the kupuna and our kids will be the leaders. So, we have to invest today for tomorrow. So, I just want to ask to keep us at the forefront, keep the kids at the forefront. Teach them everything we can. Have a safe place for them such as the Kihei Youth Center, Boys and Girls Club, Paia Youth Center, Hana, Molokai, Lanai, support everybody so we can have a healthy community. Cannot take just take me, cannot be the Kihei Youth Center, it has to be everybody. So, forgive me for my emotions, but, I'm very thankful and I'm not afraid to ask for your support so, mahalo nui. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. We do have a question but, never apologize for being passionate about what you do.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, thank you for what you do, thank you for being here tonight. I just was wondering how many kids are served and what are the ages?

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: We service between ages 8 years old and 18, primarily 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to high school. We currently 547 youth members registered. We've gone as high as 800 kids so, every year we take out the ones that are leaving and so forth. But, as of today, we exactly 547 youth members.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: You're welcome. Thank you.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. We have another question from Council Chair King.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Hi Lehuanani.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Hi, Aloha King [sic].

VICE-CHAIR KING: I just have a quick question because I met with Parks Department yesterday and they wanted to make that park next to your Kihei Youth Center into a dog park and I just wanted to make if that was going to be compatible with what you're doing?

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: You know, it is going to be what it is going to be but, if my opinion counts, maybe there's another area I think. I think dogs need to have an adequate park and I would advocate for that, but, I'd hate to take away from the existing park though we know we're getting the park by the school it's nice to have something on the north end. So maybe at the current – Kenolio Rec Center there's about four acres. To the left side closer to ABC maybe a portion of that so you could still save a little bit for like the tee ballers, for smaller game of soccer, so that way we can have a happy medium.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: I not saying no, but I just think maybe we share.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, I was just, we'll keep that in mind.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair King. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Hi Lehua.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Hi Yuki.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you for what you do, and I appreciate your keiki youth, your Children and Youth Day [sic] I think, is what you've been doing. Appreciate it, I just want to share that I've been involved as a volunteer and I think what you never talk about is that you provide this great free activity for the Kihei, for the community in general, and I think the Kihei Youth Center makes very little. I think you sell water or you take care of things, basic things, but you do a fabulous job with all your volunteers and I share with you in your passion and a I appreciate you for what you do.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Yeah, thank you. We don't make anything because we drink all the water. But, you know what? It's so worth it, yeah. We get more back than what money can give us. So, that's our kuleana.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no other questions, mahalo for your testimony this evening. . . .(applause). . . . Ms. Fujita will you please announce our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Julie Williams, followed by Patricia Rouse.

MS. WILLIAMS: . . . (chuckles). . . Hi, I'm Julie Williams. Oh, it's okay, I think putting it down is good, I can hold on to it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You can just squeeze the top right below the mic. Oh shucks.

MS. WILLIAMS: Hi, my name is Julie Williams.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hi.

MS. WILLIAMS: And I want to say thank you to all of you for being here and listening to everybody. It's really nice. Okay. The reason that I'm here is I am wanting to talk about a road that doesn't have a sidewalk on it, and that's on Keonekai and Kihei. That corner right there is very – yes, that road is dangerous. I work, I walk this road just about every day with my dog and my dad he's 87 years-old. He'll walk down that street, I always worry about him walking his dog down that road and it's not well-lit. It doesn't have a good crosswalk there, and there is a sidewalk that's further up on the road. So, to do an extension all the way down I think would be very, very beneficial and I'm hoping that that may be in the budget for getting that done this year. That's about it. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Williams. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony this evening. Ms. Fujita will you please announce our next two testifiers.

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Patricia Rouse followed by Tim Botkin.

MS. ROUSE: Hi, I'm Patricia Rouse –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry we're going to have some help with the mic.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MS. ROUSE: I can do this. Thank you. I'm Patricia Rouse. I've testified twice in the past 20 years for two different nonprofits. One, Aging with Aloha and another disabilities nonprofit. And first of all, I want to thank the County for providing this convenient time and place for each district resident to have to say what they're own priorities are and what's important to them in this 2020 Budget, so thank you. I wanted to let you know, I noticed and appreciated seeing signs appear for visitor and resident education about what Ahupua`a there are along the Piilani Highway. It opens conversation regarding care of the land and care of each other in the Hawaiian culture. The opportunity when the question is asked, what does that sign mean? The opportunity is cultural education between people, so thanks. I don't know where it came from, I'm thanking you. When I watched the online video of the Councilmembers stating their priorities and concerns for this next budget I was happy to hear Kelly King state she wanted to hear from her district tonight before stating her priorities and that's why I'm here. The priorities for the budget voiced by every Councilmember were different. There were priorities and needs expressed by Councilmembers of the voices of the residents in Hana, Lanai, Molokai that I have never been aware of. It was a good experience viewing the video. I wanted to support the following four priorities that I heard from you and that I have of my own. So, I heard that we need additional safety support for Kalama Park in Kihei. I heard that an additional safety person or officer was recommended as well as security cameras. Those are good recommendations. The second priority that I would like to support is water safety for parks and pools. Lifeguarding and visitor education about water and weather conditions save lives. I've noticed this year the lack of lifeguards has been closing community pools more than ever, or closes a pool during part of the day that some residents have time to use the pool for their health maintenance or improvement. So, supporting new lifeguard programs, recruiting new lifeguards, money for all of those things that lifeguards do is so important. The third priority is the need in Hana for ADA upgrades to public spaces. I was shocked to see that we are all well behind the law in funding this priority. And for number four of my priorities, they're not in order of need, they're just in order of this presentation, the need for safety repairs and upgrades to roads. These are the most basic things. The need for electric power supply after storms and for maintaining a clean water supply. These are so basic. The continuing and imminent need to address sea-level change and flooding of our shoreline roads. I've heard that from Council as well. These are Countywide needs, you're all on the right direction. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Rouse. Members, any need for clarification on that? Okay. So, it was Council Chair King who worked on that Ahupua`a signs, so --

MS. ROUSE: Oh, thank you, they're beautiful.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -it's her that you can . . . working with the Ahu Moku -

MS. ROUSE: I hope we all have a conversation with people.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -Kula Kai.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MS. ROUSE: Yes, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I also appreciate you having priorities or stating your concerns outside the district, too.

MS. ROUSE: That's what you wanted . . . yes, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony this evening. . . .(applause). . . . Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Tim Botkin, followed by Mark Guaglione.

MR. BOTKIN: Aloha and mahalo for being here and providing this opportunity. I know it's tough being . . . .(inaudible). . . . all the time and putting up with us. At the same time you do a great service so I appreciate that. I'm here to support what is known as the Maui ESG Investment Opportunity and . . . .(inaudible). . . . Conference. This was initiated to you by Ian and Shay Chan Hodges who are local folks who are active in a lot of different things. It proposes to raise funds from really, globally important investors with the target of helping them understand why ESG, which is environmental social and good governance goals are appropriate. I live in Kihei. I work at the University of Hawaii Maui College. I'm the Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor in the Sustainable Science Management Program. So, as you might guess, this becomes very close to me and my heart. It also becomes close to me in my work because we've talked about working together. I think you'll find in your packets a letter from our Chancellor Lui Hokoana who has agreed to host a conference on the college and as well to try to assist in talks about how the goals of this are in fact pretty well aligned of what we do in our program. And the common vision of this is that Maui has this opportunity to become something much more than just another place but a global leader in this concept. It is already a global leader like it or not in sustainability study because being an island, a growth community, so tightly knit in the way that it is. It is a great place to study sustainability. So, we have been able to develop some pretty high-level best practices with regard to how do you get to sustainability. I think it's not well known, necessarily and we often talk about sustainability without really seeing where we want to go with it. But really it has to be the study of any activity that you undertake to determine what are the costs, what are the impacts, what are the benefits, how can we make it as good as it can be? We've been working on a model to do that now for a bit and Ian and Shay came to talk about that to say what if we bring this together? What if we use their fiscal and financial and fundraising skill and attach to that the incentive for those who bring their funding to invest in project which we believe are sustainable? That's not really been done in a community around the world. It's an opportunity, it's a vision that many have had but not many could reach it. I believe we can, and the reason why is because we're Maui and because what we have in the way of opportunity as a community and elsewhere. So, it's interesting, the – way back when I was in a position something like yours, I remember being approached a gentleman who is known as the fiercest environmental advocate in the community, it's a different community of course. And

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

he, I asked him what he wanted to talk about because he's an environmentalist I was waiting to see. I was too, but at the same time you had to kind of tow the line, right? But, he said, I want to talk about economic development. I said, that seems funny for an environmentalist. And he said, yeah, but the truth is that's the key to it all. Europeans used the term 'sustainable development' instead of sustainability because they understand that really the only reason we have to talk about sustainability is because of what we do and so if we can do it right and create the benefits without the impacts we have a shot to rise above some things and even improve our situation. If we continue to do it wrong or to overlook impacts and fall into the trap of saying oh, that's an unforeseen consequence we will see a steady decline in degradation of our community. So, this is an opportunity. I hope you'll look at it. It's not a ton of money but I think there's a great opportunity to do something really great. So, thank you for listening.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Botkin. We have a question for you. Council Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Hi Tim, thanks for coming.

MR. BOTKIN: Good evening.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Nice to see you're working with Shay and Ian. So, on the ESG, was there – because they've testified a couple of times in our, in front of us. Was there a budget amount that they were asking for because it kind of went back and forth between being an initiative or a conference and I kind of wasn't sure about?

MR. BOTKIN: My understanding is they're asking your \$75,000 to fund a variety of activities including this one that culminate in a conference.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. BOTKIN: And we're even talking about making that conference a dual effort where they bring high level funders, we bring some really high level national or international sustainability experts to come and have that conversation.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. And then just for your information we have the Hawaii State Association of Counties conference coming up in June and it's on Maui this year.

MR. BOTKIN: Oh, excellent.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, you're welcome to make a presentation proposal and maybe we can do something there.

MR. BOTKIN: Perfect I'd love that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: It's going be at the Wailea Beach, so.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MR. BOTKIN: Great. Thanks for the head's up.

VICE-CHAIR KING: I can talk to you about that later.

MR. BOTKIN: I appreciate that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair King. I have a quick question. So, are you currently in the proposed budget, the Mayor's Proposed Budget, the ESG Conference?

MR. BOTKIN: I'm not and to tell you the truth I don't know. I just wanted to give my support to it so I'm not sure of the status to tell you the truth.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It is? Okay, it is.

MR. BOTKIN: Okay, good to hear. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Botkin, for your testimony. I see no more questions.

MR. BOTKIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for your testimony. . . .(applause). . . . Ms. Fujita will you please call our next two testifiers.

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Mark Guaglione followed by Debbie Probst.

MR. GUAGLIONE: Hi. I'm here testifying for your continued support of MEDB. I'm a sixth grade Kalama Intermediate teacher, I teach technology. Currently I do eight hours, two classes of 3D printing and coding for the Kalama students. Without their support I wouldn't be able to teach computer science. Three years ago, I got the position as a sixth-grade teacher at Kalama Intermediate School and I didn't know computer science and I couldn't teach 3D printing. With their professional development I've met over 50 different teachers that teach computer science across Hawaii. Right now, I've brought computer science to over 900 students at Kalama because of their support after school. I use their robotics in my classes. So today I was able to give . . . it's just amazing to see 900 students that don't have opportunities for this because of their support and because of your support I was able to give it to them. We're able to do community events to different elementary schools. We just built an app with my students, we're going to the STEM conference in Oahu and I just would like to say I appreciate your support of our program and without your help this couldn't have happened. And these skills are going to be incredibly valuable for 21<sup>st</sup> century and I asked the students to write a letter today and all of them they've never done this before and it's going to help them get



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

engineering jobs in the future. So, I never talked in public like this, so I really appreciate you guys coming out and hearing me out. So, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have one question. One question, sorry. Thank you so much for joining us tonight.

MR. GUAGLIONE: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And congratulations on your first testimony. I just curious, you mentioned your students built an app.

MR. GUAGLIONE: Yeah, they did.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Would you mind sharing what that app is?

MR. GUAGLIONE: Yeah, so, next week they're going to broadcast it to the school it's about bullying. We asked what the biggest problem at school was, so they made a bullying app. And so, once the students complete it they get to vote for their homeroom and the highest amount of homeroom votes will get like a pizza party. So, all the students across the school will see the bullying app that these students made.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome.

MR. GUAGLIONE: And this made mainly from a sixth grader, he's only 10 years-old.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Incredible. Mahalo for sharing.

MR. GUAGLIONE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Debbie Probst followed by Michael Jokovich.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger.

MS. PROBST: You think I'd know how to do this.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MS. PROBST: Thank you. Aloha, Councilmembers. I'm Debbie Probst, Entertainment and Accounting Director for Kihei Fourth Friday. First and foremost, thank you for approving the funding for Maui Visitors Bureau to support Hawaiian cultural entertainment for the Kihei Fourth Friday Town Party. It has improved the party tremendously and we are in favor of continued funding for the party in the amount of \$25,000. The funding has allowed the party to support and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture through music and cultural activities. Music by local Maui musicians. So, the

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

money stays right here on Maui and goes directly to local Maui resident musicians. The local music perpetuates the Hawaiian culture through the songs sung in the Hawaiian language and also through hula. The event is attended by visitors as well as local residents so perpetuating the culture at Kihei Fourth Friday helps educate visitors as well as locals, adults as well as children. The funding has also allowed Kihei Fourth Friday to book world-class Hawaiian musicians who have won Na Hoku Hanohano awards and grammies including Willie K., Amy Hanaiali'i and Kalani Pe'a. This high-quality level of musicians has increased attendance to our party now between two and three thousand up from approximately one to two thousand attendees. This increase in attendance helps our local mom and pop businesses sell more products. Another way the Maui Visitor Bureau grant money used increases income for Maui residents and start up businesses right here on Maui. The event itself is a locally produced event with all event directors and coordinators also Maui residents. It costs between seven and nine thousand per month and the additional funding is very, very helpful. Finally, the event is a huge pop-up as it is put up and taken down the same day. Not adding any new permanent structures to Kihei or Maui. Again, thank you for your funding the Maui Visitor Bureau grant money for Kihei Fourth Friday where all the money stays here, allows visitors and residents to see the local culture and allows us to continue to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture through music, song and dance. A true community effort with tremendous benefits for everyone allowing the event that brings the local community together and helps our local businesses. This funding contributes directly to the community allowing for diverse businesses, entertainers, and community members to continue to put on a town party event that supports community values and finally it aligns with the countywide policy plan preserving local culture, improving education through community awareness and strengthens the local economy.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Probst. We have a question from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Probst. Had a question . . . so you're supporting the 25,000 to Maui County Visitors Association and you said that you get seven to nine . . . huh?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: For Fourth Friday.

MS. PROBST: For Fourth Friday. Maui Visitors --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but it circles through the Maui County Visitors Association.

VICE-CHAIR KING: It's a line item . . . *(inaudible)*. . . It's in the South Maui District cultural economic activity . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But this one is specifically for entertainment . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MS. PROBST: This is for the entertainment from the Maui Visitors Bureau funding. We get additional funding as well to put on the event. But this is specifically for entertainment.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I understand. So, I'm wondering you said it cost for the music portion seven to nine thousand a month?

MS. PROBST: No, that's for the entire event between seven and ninety-five hundred. The music itself would be three to five thousand and that includes sound, lights, keiki entertainment as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I guess my question is, is it a straight pass through? Does Maui County Visitors Association take some off the top or do you get the full 25,000?

MS. PROBST: We get the full amount and it goes directly to the musicians, entertainers and sound.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thanks.

MS. PROBST: Sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. We have another question from Council Chair King.

MS. PROBST: No, I'm done.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks, Debbie. I didn't recognize you outside of Fourth Friday.

MS. PROBST: I'm sorry, yes. I can't see you.

VICE-CHAIR KING: But, I wanted to ask you about, you know, this year we did Whale Day as part of Fourth Friday in February and I just wondered if you could give me like a, like a little written analysis of it? If you think it's valuable and we should do it next year or if you think we should take it out of Fourth Friday and do it separately because it wasn't particularly focused on the whales, but it was extremely well-attended. It was the best-attended Fourth Friday I've ever seen.

MS PROBST: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, I know it was successful on that part. But, I just wanted to see if I could get from your group, you know, your board just a little analysis and recommendations for the coming year.

MS. PROBST: Sure, certainly. Okay, thanks, Kelly.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you. All right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair King. Okay, so no other questions, mahalo for your test, no other questions?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MS. PROBST: Sorry, I'm leaving.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(chuckles)* . . . Mahalo for your testimony this evening. . .  
. . . *(applause)*. . . Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Michael Jokovich, followed by Coleen Rishoud.

MR. JOKOVICH: Aloha. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Michael Jokovich. I'm the area Vice-President for Hyatt Hotels. I've actually Maui in 1985 and I'm a proud resident and I've been working with Hyatt for over 35 years. I represent the Maui Hotel and Lodging Association. I'm a former Chairman of the Board. I'm also on the Hawaii Hotel and Lodging Association, and I'm also representing Hyatt Hotels and Host Hotels. Hyatt actually manages over 1300 rooms on this island and over 1500 employees on Maui alone. Host Hotels owns the Andaz Maui, The Fairmont Kea Lani, and the Hyatt Regency Maui. Representing both of those companies, we are opposing the proposal to raise by 64 ½ percent the current hotel and resort real property tax rate from the current \$9.37 per thousand of assessed value to \$15.41 per thousand. We're actually requesting a more equitable tax structure be considered. The hotel resort short term rental and timeshare classifications are the highest tax rate in Maui County, and we also respectfully request to look into creating a more equitable share in tax rates. Our Maui County economy is powered in large part by a strong visitor industry and year over year we see double digit increased in our industry's real property values resulting in more tax revenues being collected. Thus, with the real property taxes, with the new assessed values, we're going to be able to generate \$13.6 million more if it remained the same. The additional tax revenue also produced by higher property value should be enough. Any forces that adversely affect our ability to compete such as having to pass along these higher taxes could impact our appeal as a visitor destination, the availability of money to invest in new hotel properties or renovate existing ones, and employment within the hospitality industry and related travel businesses, all of which have a ripple effect across our entire economy. Small retail and restaurants attached to a hotel or a resort could be negatively impacted by this additional tax increase. The addition of increased taxes would produce an extra burden on the hotels and resorts forcing them possibly look at cutting operational costs and ultimately work force. We're aware that the hospitality industry is the number one private sector employer in Maui County as well as one of the highest taxed economic sectors. We do believe in giving back to Maui and there is sometimes a misconception that the visitor industry exists to benefit offshore investment companies. However, not only the industry the number one private sector but it's a generous supporter of local community charities. In the past, multiple years, Maui Hotel and Lodging has generated 13 million to local charities, Host Hotels which owns the hotels I spoke about previously, have donated \$455,000 in the first year of it's three campaign to support affordable housing. Most recently in January, a check was written to Na Hale O Maui for \$100,000 to support 12 new homes in West Maui at Kahoma. So, we do believe that caring for our people is our purpose but also our community as well. I just want to close with that last year we experience quite a few man-made and natural disasters, a hotel strike and the government shutdown, but we

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

must cognizant of the fact that nothing can be taken for granted. In this regard, remaining cost-competitive and not viewing the visitor industry as a source of endless wealth for government must be foremost if we're going to maintain our status as a prime destination for many years to come. I ask that you oppose measures than can threaten the livelihoods of all of our associates and place the number one provider of jobs not in a state of jeopardy. So, mahalo for your support. And Mahalo for your support for our industry as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony Mr. Jokovich. We have a question for you from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for being here tonight. Your hotels are very lovely.

MR. JOKOVICH: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering as the area Vice-President, what is your geographic boundaries?

MR. JOKOVICH: So, I'm responsible for Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest but I'm based out of the Andaz Maui as the General Manager.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I was wondering, this company is beyond just your area, it's global?

MR. JOKOVICH: Hyatt is a global company with over 900 properties worldwide.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, the tax rate percentage on Maui, in comparison to other Counties within the State, is the lowest and yet, how would you characterize the business of your properties in other Counties within the State, worse or better?

MR. JOKOVICH: Hawaii, is in general, is very popular and business conditions are pretty stable, you know, across all the Counties we're running anywhere from 75 to 78 percent on annualized occupancies. Maui County generates the most as far as average daily room rate. So, that is a fact, so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, generating the most average daily room rate, is that mean that Maui is the most successful hotel out of the State?

MR. JOKOVICH: Not necessarily, no. It just depends on the size of a hotel. How many rooms they have? For example, the Andaz Maui has 300 room, the Hyatt Regency Maui has 800 rooms, Hyatt Regency Waikiki has 1200 – there's variable types of room and number of rooms, so, you can't classify one more being successful, but we do take pride in Maui because we raise the most the funds for the Visitor Industry Charity Walk and that is tremendous. I mean, talking about 1.2 million and on Oahu they raised 500,000, they should be shame.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Good point, good point.

MR. JOKOVICH: Right, Lisa. Seriously. . . .*(audience laughter)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, for me, I'm kind of biased probably because I live here but I think Maui No Ka Oi.

MR. JOKOVICH: I do, too. I live here since 1985, Maui No Ka Oi.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, my thinking is, like our real property tax rate for hotels would be comparable to the highest in the State, and you can still do business in the highest in the State. So, what do you think about that just for input?

MR. JOKOVICH: I think exactly what I stated. We will be subject to look at our operational costs could affect employment, could affect restaurants, hotels, because that increase is going to affect the entire operations from a revenue standpoint and business conditions. So, seriously, a 64 and a half percent increase is tremendous.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I wasn't talking about the 64 and a half, I was talking about bringing us comparable to other counties within the State because we're at the lowest but we're no ka oi.

MR. JOKOVICH: We are no ka oi but we don't need to be no ka oi with the highest.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Thanks.

MR. JOKOVICH: Okay, mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, we have more questions. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Molina and then Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good evening, Mr. Jokovich. I'm just following up on Councilmember Paltin's line of questioning. We do have the lowest rates compared to our sister counties. Now the Mayor has proposed, I believe, a slight increase to roughly \$9.60, any opposition from your cohorts with that consideration?

MR. JOKOVICH: No, we could certainly, if it's equal as I said I don't have the calculations, but it's about \$13.6 million that could be added to the budget based on the currently assessed values, so, the \$9.60 I think that we could certainly live with that.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay and it's interesting, the Mayor's proposal decreases the rate for timeshares but, you know, that's for another conversation. So, do you say \$9.60, could you live with say something a little higher?

MR. JOKOVICH: No. No!

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . not? Okay. I appreciate that.

MR. JOKOVICH: It's just a, this is like an auction. . . *(audience laughs)*. . . Lisa, would you like to come up here? No. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, well, it just seems the trend right now is, you know, the question from I'll just say from the public is they are questions as to why Maui County has the lower hotel rates versus our sister counties. So, I'm sure that number will be, another number will be considered as well as the . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MR. JOKOVICH: I appreciate that. Let me just add that there is a slowdown coming and the average room rate is declining in all the islands. So, we're concerned about what's happening in the future so that's going to affect transient accommodation tax, occupancies and so forth, so.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Member Sinenci and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Jokovich for being here. And thank you for your testimony because we're looking at this, you know, with a fine-toothed comb. Can you hear me?

MR. JOKOVICH: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Test? Okay, so, and like the other Member said that we are comparing our Maui rates with some of the other counties around and we are the lowest. So, some of the increases that you're seeing has been, you know, just kind of competing with some of the other counties. We're also hearing, you know, just a lot of people that want to see some infrastructural CIP projects for the County and just see some of the, you know, just addressing some of the visitor industry not just promoting Maui but trying to be managing our visitor industry. And so, we want to be good hosts. We don't want to come off as being, just having a lack of infrastructure. In East Maui we see a lot of tourist that are coming we've never seen before and so we've got infrastructure that is roads falling in the ocean, our bathrooms, we cannot handle those types of things. So that's why we're just kind of looking at the tourism industry and how can we manage. On the West side we also have erosion, beach erosion, so that's another thing that some of the hotels and the condos –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci, do you have a question for our testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Well, yes, so my question is Mr. Jokovich, what is the hotel industry in addressing some of the beach erosion that a lot of hotels are right on?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MR. JOKOVICH: Thank you. Kaanapali Resort Association, and I used to be General Manager at the Hyatt Regency so we're a part of the Kaanapali Operators Associations. So all of the businesses there pay an internal tax to Kaanapali. That combined with funding from the owners of the hotel properties there will begin a project next year. . . .*(makes a knocking sound)* . . . that will reclaim sand that is off Black Point [sic] that has been designated by Sea Engineering out of Oahu that will bring the original sand back to the shores of Kaanapali. So that's how committed we are and it's multi-million dollars of investment by the operator's association and the owners of the hotel properties.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Not at the County's expense?

MR. JOKOVICH: Not at the County's expense at all.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you.

MR. JOKOVICH: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your question, Member Sinenci. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Sir?

MR. JOKOVICH: Yes, Ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: You in so many words said you can live with the Mayor's proposal but you are not able to live with the \$15.41, is that correct?

MR. JOKOVICH: We're opposed to the \$15, yeah increase, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, would you be open to something between the two?

MR. JOKOVICH: At this point, I'm supporting the Mayor with his proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, I thank you for having courage. So, I wanted to say that to you in advance for coming here and so I just want to put that out there to our people that this Council has courage, too. So, we're going to have to make some hard decisions that not everybody is going to like. But, I think for our future for our children and for those not yet here, we're going to make those hard decisions. So, thank you again for your courage.

MR. JOKOVICH: I appreciate that, and I'll just leave you with that Maui properties have the highest valuation in the State so thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any other question for our testifier? Okay, seeing none. Thank you very much for your testimony this evening.



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MR. JOKOVICH: Mahalo. Thank you. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita, will you please announce our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Coleen Rishovd followed by Jean Keating.

MS. RISHOUD: Aloha, thank you for hearing our testimonies tonight. My name is Coleen Rishovd. I am the Director of the Calgary Chapel Food Pantry here in Kihei. Our agency is a partner agency with the Maui Food Bank and I'm here to speak on behalf of them and to thank the County for their support and to ask for the continued support of the Maui Food Bank because they are essential to our community. Because of our own partnership with the Maui Food Bank, our food pantry alone is able to provide groceries for four to five hundred people each month and these are free groceries. Let me tell you about some of them who have just come in for food this past two weeks and have allowed me to give their first names and their circumstances. We have Darrell who's 58 years-old who has been undergoing chemo and radiation treatments this past year and has been unable to work because of the side effects of all of that. Mary who is 77 years-old, who has full custody of and is raising her two grandchildren who are school-aged. Melissa, 40 years-old, a single mother who is undergoing aggressive treatment for breast cancer while caring for her 4-year-old son, she's also very active in this Kihei community. Tai, 52 years-old, she is also a single mother who last year became very ill and so much so that she became temporarily paralyzed and she's just learned to walk all over again, and she's trying to get strong enough to be able to return to her work, her life and her family duties. And also, there's Anna, 68 years-old, she came in today, who is undergoing radiation and chemo while taking care of her 93-year-old mother. These are just a few of the many people who we are in contact with on a monthly basis. And without the important partnership with the Maui Food Bank we would not be able to reach out and help so many in such a practical way, relieving them of what would otherwise be a hefty grocery bill. When people aren't suffering from hunger their minds are clear and they're better able to help themselves in other areas, whether it be following through with their own healthcare, looking for jobs and home and taking excellent care of their children. So, I'm asking that you please continue to fund and support the Maui Food Bank for we are all very grateful for their much-needed contribution to our island ohana. Thank you very much. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any need for questions for our testifier?

MS. RISHOUD: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing none. Thank you very much for your testimony this evening. Ms. Fujita, will you please announce the next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Jean Keating followed by Kathy Becklin.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MS. KEATING: Aloha, Council, thank you for having us here this evening. It's an education for myself. I've lived here and owned property here on Maui 29 years and more of our residents should come and sit in on these hearings to learn more about the community. I live at 264 Pulima Place and that is at the top of Keonekai Road. And you've got, I believe, four different requests for sidewalk improvements in Kihei. But, Keonekai Road is a number one priority and the Council tonight have an opportunity that neighborhood safer for pedestrians for our residents as well as our visitors. And I'd like to just tell you a little story and the reason why I got involved in getting a sidewalk there. There is – this is, there's a gap, right, there's a sidewalk for those of you that don't know Keonekai Road I did supply you with a packet and there is one picture in there. From the top of Keonekai going on the south side of the street there is a sidewalk all the way down to the front, the end of Kamaole Sands. The sidewalk ends there. Pedestrians then have the option of trying to walk around all the vehicles that are parked in the right-of-way or to walk on the edge of the road. That's our option. I no longer walk in that area. I used to. Traffic has increased a lot on Keonekai and South Kihei that intersection. I wanna tell you about a couple that recently moved to Maui and are new owners, relatively new owners, at the top of Keonekai. Exactly a year ago, they 11<sup>th</sup> of 2008, April 11<sup>th</sup>, they walked down, husband and wife walked down Keonekai, went to Kamaole III Beach Park to watch the sunset. We like to do that, all of us. They walked back across the crosswalk at the corner of South Kihei Road and Keonekai, where there's no sidewalk. They walked onto the shoulder of the road and by then it was dusk. And unfortunately, this resident was struck by a pick-up truck. After eight days in and out of consciousness over in Oahu in ICU, the doctors didn't think he was going to make it, but he did. He survived after 30 days on Oahu. Once I found out that this had happened to one of our neighbors we rallied and got several neighbors together that were concerned about safety for pedestrians in our neighborhood and there are about seven or eight of us that have been involved in going door-to-door to the neighborhood since that incident. So, we have been working with the Staff from last year and Council of last year and with Kelly King's assistance as well. The neighbors that have circulated about six or seven of us, some of the comments that I received from other neighbors were gosh, yeah, that intersection is also very dark when you're turning from South Kihei Road to go up to Keonekai. Some neighbors said I was almost hit in that intersection. So, it was a real eyeopener to me and actually how unsafe that intersection is and that walkway. So, you have in front of you a copy of the petition that we sent around that we walked around the neighborhood and there are over 180 signatures on this. And I'd just like to read it to the audience. We the residents –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Keating, I'm sorry. You've reached your four-minute limit.

MS. KEATING: I did. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But we do have your petition here.

MS. KEATING: I won't read it to you. Just to know again, I no longer walk in this area. I take other avenues to get down to the beach. I go almost to Wailea and I go down Kilohana

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

Street for safety purposes and, wanna just again, thank you and this is a priority to our neighborhood for safety.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, do you have any need for clarification from testifier? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening.

MS. KEATING: Thank you. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Kathy Becklin followed by Mike Moran.

MS. BECKLIN: Aloha, I'm Kathy Becklin. I am Co-Founder and the current Executive Director with Grow Some Good and we do school gardens across Maui. I'm here tonight first to thank you guys for everything you do. Hearing the scope of the problems every time I come to a meeting like this. I'm just shocked by the connectedness of our community and how it all comes together. But, tonight I'm talking about school, additional support continued and additional support for our school garden program here on Maui. I personally feel that we are at a turning point here on Maui for agriculture and the role of school gardens. Our comprehensive program we started ten years ago runs in many of our DOE schools across, it's not like a special activity, people often think that. No, we're an integrated part of K through eight classrooms with students attending up to 16 classes per year at multiple grade levels. We use our outdoor classrooms to teach kids how to grow sustainably, to prepare and love our food. That second-grade class we started with ten years is now just graduating from high school. Maybe joining Phyllis' FAM program. With Mahi Pono coming in we're seeing another change in our expanding agriculture. These young people really are our future. As Larry Nixon from Mahi Pono stated in his *Maui Time* interview, and he said it very eloquently, so I'm just sharing it. Hand those kids something they'll eat, get them excited about clean healthy food. Right now, the kid who one day will take my job is the fifth grader on this island. We need to engage him or her about farming now or we'll never keep them on Maui. It's not the easiest way to make a living but it is an honorable way. Across the country we are seeing the face of our young farmer is changing. They are not coming from farming families. They are coming from colleges. The USDA reports that 69 percent of the farmers under the age of 35 have come from college. At first when I heard that I thought oh, they're in biotech agriculture, you know, the Monsantos of the world. But, that isn't so, they have a variety of degrees in business, science, and environmental studies. They chose to be farmers because it's important to protect our land and to grow food for all of us. We are also at the crossroads of building new leaders in our community. For ten years Ms. Lane Hough has been the Maui School Garden Network Director and that is where the monies come into. She has been doing her work totally pro bono and she's at a time in her life where she'd like to see some new leaders come in, but those new leaders also need pay to sustain themselves on this island and healthcare and things like that. So, I, and we also participate at the Hawaii County level or at the Hawaii State level and we ask that you all support this movement and support our kids. Thank you.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Becklin for your testimony. We have questions for you from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi, thank you for your work and for coming tonight. I just wanting to know what was the dollar request and if you're already in the budget?

MS. BECKLIN: We are a line item in the Budget for 25,000 and we are asking for an additional 5,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. And we have a question from Council Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Actually that's what I was going to ask and, but, is that going to allow you to expand? Or is that going to allow you to keep doing?

MS. BECKLIN: Well, I was texting with Lane and said can we really expand with that Lane? I think we need more because that role is so critical and I'm pieced in too many ways and we need to hire someone.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, and how many schools are you in now?

MS. BECKLIN: The Maui, Grow Some Good is in ten schools. We have very comprehensive program. Maui School Garden Network, I believe, is in 31 schools serving about 8,000 students.

VICE-CHAIR KING: It would be good if you could write up, you know, an expansion program and what you could really do if we gave you some funds.

MS. BECKLIN: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: I apologize you got batted around last year in the budget, you were in and then out, and you were back in, so – but, I mean, I think it's a great program. I'd like to see it expanded.

MS. BECKLIN: Yep, we make every dollar count.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any additional questions? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening.

MS. BECKLIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, we're gonna take the next two testifiers and then a short ten-minute break. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Mike Moran followed by Andrew Beerer.

MR. MORAN: Aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Committee. Mahalo for coming to South Maui this evening. And Council Chair King, welcome home. Our community truly appreciates your sincere quality efforts as South Maui's first ever Council Chair. . . . (applause). . . . And I'm Mike Moran with the Kihei Community Association, we have free brochures anybody's interested? One sad note, just as I was leaving to come here I received a notice from the Department of the Health posting a high-bacteria count at Kamaole Beach I. I wanted to give this to Robin our first testifier, but she zipped out before I could. But, our ocean quality is always a challenge. We thank you for setting this district meeting early in this arduous budget process so, you have community input before decisions are made. To commence we understand you have no input in the Administration's Budget and that are reasonable limitations on how and how much you can revise. But, we wish to share a glimpse of what we see from the new Administration for our district as far as we have seen from the prior one when we examine our portion of the CIP. And we ask you to please look at our single sheet handout or at least the one side of it. Each of you is charged to represent the entire County not your own district. Our by-laws conversely require us to focus explicitly on our district and while each district some share similarity. So, we make that comparison with West Maui, Central and ours to help determine if we see a reasonable fair distribution of the CIP funding. We ask you to look at that chart. We had asked the prior Administration about this perceived imbalance and we received two replies. One was to look for balance over several years, we didn't see that. And the other was to ask the Council to do budget amendments and adjustments. So, that's what we ask of you. We ask if you can dedicate whatever County funding as possible to the North-South Collector Road. We understand the complexity of this that you have to get State and Federal funds but, whatever monies the County can appropriate toward it, we been asking for this for I think for 30 years now, and we have segments, but it's still not connected. Next, we ask you if consider if you would consider funding a pre-fab bridge for South Kihei Road to cross the Kulanihakoi River Gulch. About \$1 million was wasted on design work for a complicated process to accomplish this by the prior Administration. This time we ask you to please listen to the Community before the current culvert collapses and South Kihei Road is closed. I want to say that we love that you have a Multi-Modal Transportation Committee, and mahalo to Chair King for creating it and Committee Chair Sugimura for running it. It fits our 1998 Community Plan. Please fund the greenway across makai of the community park opening up safe walking and bicycling from the South, Welakahao to the park, the adjoining schools and existing greenway to reach commercial areas. Do not wait until the adjacent road is built. We had included the Waipuilani bike path. But, we heard the comments today that it's now in the flood zone. Unfortunately, if you keep putting things off everything along our shoreline will be in the flood zone. Sidewalks, we can talk – you've heard all the different, I don't know where else to talk about, we have money, thank you for this money in here for South Kihei Road and for Ohukai. But, you'll hear all these other sections of our community asking for sidewalks. We want a walkable, bikeable community.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Moran, will you please complete your testimony.

MR. MORAN: Yes, Ma'am. Thank you, thank you for your indulgence. The last point which is on the back of our handout is that proposed greenway running along the Kulanihakoi River Gulch. It's a very complex situation, we would like to come at another time in one of your meetings to delve into that because it's many, many aspects, but we would love it to be open space. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One last sentence, please.

MR. MORAN: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Okay. Members, any need for clarification? Council Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for being here Mike, you're everywhere, you're always there.

MR. MORAN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, now I'm working on this greenway project but I had a question for you about that because I'm, the Kulanihakoi Bridge it looks like we're starting all over again. We went to the very end of the very long, contentious back and forth thing and realized we couldn't build just a culvert. But, you know what, that prefab bridge that you were working with Linda Barry, did you ever look at that type of bridge for the North-South Collector Road? Because you know, the two sections that were held up on because of the bridges.

MR. MORAN: Well we didn't particularly examine that as a layman. We did have two architects and engineers working on that project and they presented it, they gave numerous examples of where it's used nationwide, worldwide, these prefab bridges. In fact, the existing bridge that's over the Kulanihakoi Gulch is similar to that, that it was a drop in. They were able to close the road for two days and it was kind of like an erector set. They put in these segments and then boom, it was open. So, it's something that can be done but when it was – I can another word, but completely rejected by then Department of Public Works, it seemed pointless to say okay, well this could be other places if you don't want to use it here. But, I would say as a layman, that would be a feasible thing and the Department does use prefab bridges in other places. Maybe that we, it looks like we may have a wahine heading up that department, maybe that's what we need. . . . *(laughter in background)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, well just keep, think about that because I just met with that wahine yesterday . . . *(laughter)*. . . and I talked to her about the potential of a prefab bridge to get North-South Collector Road done quicker. So, just, I just kind of wanted to put that bug in your ear.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MR. MORAN: Sounds excellent, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair King. Members, any other need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Moran for your testimony.

MR. MORAN: Thank you very much for coming out tonight. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita, will you call our last testifier before our break.

MS. FUJITA: The last testifier is Andrew Beerer.

MR. BEERER: Aloha, my name is Andrew Beerer. Thank you for hearing us tonight, Council. I am here representing the Kihei Community Association as their Parks and Recreation Committee Chair. I also Chair our Education Committee and am a big advocate for the upcoming Kihei High School. All right, so, I'm going to focus tonight on the Parks CIP Budget and if you look at the South Maui part of the Parks CIP Budget it fell off the charts. There's nothing there. So, we need – what I do every year and it's been about 15 years going, is I look at what projects were on the Budget the year before? What was in the long-term? And then try to see if those budgets or those projects were followed up on the next year, stay in the long-term unless there's a good reason why they can't. and then you bird-dog them until they're put out to bid and actually executed. So, this past year we've had some really strong performance by Parks CIP Department in that we've completed a lot of our projects from 2017 and 2018 funding, or they're under contract to be completed. That would be like the South Maui Gym, the Kalama Skate Park, resurfacing of Kam I, III, and Keawakapu parking lots. Resurfacing the Kalama Playground, a pet project of mine, adding shade and shad structures to both that playground and the South Maui Community Park playground. All right, so, we want to keep following up on that and have a sense of gratitude and collaboration and kokua with the department to do so. This year, my pet project for the last few years has been to, I've been on the Kalama Park action team a local citizen's patrol of Kalama Park since 2004, and we've made a drastic difference, but, we still have always our challenges. We need security cameras. This is a no-brainer. They're easy, low-cost crime deterrents, they're proven to drastically lower crime rates and they can also be used to review serious crimes. We unfortunately have murders, assaults, arsons in Kalama Park, and every business and many private homes has security cameras. I mean, who here works for a business, goes to a business, owns a business, goes to the grocery store, post office, gas station, and you're not under surveillance of a security camera? No one. Does the County have security cameras? No, they don't. If, I'm a business owner and I get ripped off, I can at least file a claim on my insurance. County gets ripped to the tune of thousands of dollars monthly in theft and vandalism of our Parks facilities and storage areas, and can you file an insurance claim? No, you can't, your self-insured. Why not put this inexpensive deterrent in the park. I've been battling this for three years. Let's get it done. All right, and then further on my list which I've submitted other priorities. Personnel for our parks as we build a gym and are starting to build out the South Maui Community Parks, we need additional caretakers and have outlined the amount we need in what kind of phases. We need to get the, back on the budget, we need to get the

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

South Maui Community Park Master Plan back on the budget. Somehow it disappeared, we're completing the advisory committee right now with David Yamashita. So, we need to keep this project moving forward and at the forefront of County planning so we don't want it to go dormant for a year or two. All phases should be on the long-term budget until they're completed. They gotta stay on the budget. This all needs to occur lockstep with development of the adjacent North-South Collector Road. All right, and also, the South Maui baseyard. They need, the Parks Department needs a baseyard to store their materials. It was on the budget, long-term budget for years, all of a sudden, this year just fell right off. Again, remain on the long-term budget until it gets done. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Beer. Members, any need for clarification?  
Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for being here Andrew.

MR. BEERER: You're welcome.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Number one, I want to thank my colleagues on the Council for giving me consensus for security cameras and an extra security officer for Kalama Park. . . .  
(applause). . . . So, got that consensus today. And I just wanted to ask you if you follow-up with Parks because I met with them yesterday as well, and they don't have the South Maui Baseyard in the Budget, they have the Central Maui Regional Park on there and they're not giving me any indication that they can do two this year. So, it might have to wait a year, but, stay on them because we need them to step up, too. I mean, we can't put it in the Budget if they can't do the work. That's kind of where we're at with that just to let you know.

MR. BEERER: Yeah, no, I think that's appropriate and that's how I put it, it needs to be on the long-term. So when it says the 2021-2025, it needs to stay there. These things shouldn't disappear ever couple years, that's now how your business works, it's not how my business works. So, it shouldn't how County business works.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, and then my last question is the South Maui Community Park Plan still valid in your opinion, cause I know it's a little bit old?

MR. BEERER: Yes, absolutely, yes.

VICE CHAIR KING: Okay, great, thank you.

MR. BEERER: You're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any need for further clarification? Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Beer, for your testimony this evening. . . .(applause). . . . Ms. Fujita, will you please announce how many testifiers we have before we go to break?

MS. FUJITA: We have 18 more testifiers.



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Will you please announce the next two testifiers, so they have a head's up.

MS. FUJITA: Rich Brunner.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And the second one?

MS. FUJITA: And the second one following is Charlie Lorber.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Ms. Fujita. Okay, Members it is 7:56, April 9<sup>th</sup>, we're gonna take a 10-minute break. Please be back in your seats by 8:06. We're now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:                7:56 p.m.**

**RECONVENE:        8:11 p.m.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please return to order? It is 8:11 on April 9. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Rich Brunner followed by Charlie Lorber.

MR. BRUNNER: Good evening. My name is Rich Brunner. I am here in support of the infrastructure there on Lower Keonekai Road. Thank you. Thank you. The other side walk being continued all the way down to South Kihei Road on Keonekai. I've met the couple that, the gentleman that was hit and he truly is gentle people and it's just heart-wrenching for a new resident, a new neighbor to get hit like that. And the County a few years ago is having to defend a lawsuit over something very similar where there was no sidewalk provided. They were pushed out of the street to walk and they were hit by a car and they ended up suing the County. I'm not sure you're aware of that. It was brought to my attention over when the County came through and sent my neighbors and I pictures of our yard and what we needed to do to clear the right-of-way in front of our homes for safe passage. I live on a cul-de-sac and so when I called the County to see what they needed they told me that there was a lawsuit over this whole thing. So, I think sidewalks cheaper than litigation. Thank you for your service to our community, appreciate that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Brunner, for your concise testimony. Members, any need for clarification? Mahalo for your testimony this evening. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next testifier?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Charlie Lorber, followed by Scott Shapiro.

MR. LORBER: Aloha.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MR. LORBER: I'm going to speak about,. . . *(microphone being adjusted)* . . . Thank you, thank you. I'm going to speak about Kihei, the sidewalk in Kihei. I don't know how many of you –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry will you please speak into mic for the record.

MR. LORBER: Yes, yes. I don't know how many of you walked along South Kihei Road on the mauka side, the mountain side. And if you have you will see there are some undeveloped areas. And if you look at them you'll see the big signs that say, *No Trespassing*. But if you look down you're going to see garbage and litter all over the place. If you look along South Kihei you will notice there is not a single litter basket, garbage can for people to throw their garbage into. Most of it is food wrappers and things so it's not just unsightly but it's also a health issue because that's going to attract all kinds of things that we don't want to attract because of the food that's on them. I am proposing that we put garbage cans, I'm using my Brooklyn terms now, to along South Kihei and have them emptied on a regular basis as to clean that area up. We all heard how important visitors are to this island and you can imagine somebody walking along South Kihei Road and seeing all this garbage there, it certainly does not help us in any way. That's it. I don't think anybody has any questions about that. But, I invite all of you to take a walk along South Kihei, start at Lipoa and head south on the mountain side and when you get to these undeveloped areas look down and you'll see what I'm talking about. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony this evening. Seeing no questions, thank you. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers.

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Scott Shapiro, followed by Jim Lynch.

MR. SHAPIRO: Just checking the height, it's good. I just want to thank all you guys, you know, this is a tough couple weeks for you and I really appreciate you sticking through and hearing everybody and everybody has a lot to say and lotta issues. So, tonight I listened to you guys and your priorities and I just have two priorities for budget consideration. Councilmember Lee said one we want, one we don't want. One we don't want is sea level rise. One we want is affordable housing. Those are my two priorities. As Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez and Council Chair King touched on sea level rise yesterday as one of their top five priorities. This is my top priority, well, as well as affordable housing, I call those equal. The County is importantly beginning to think about sea level rise and its implications, but we need to act now while we can. The Hawaii Sea Level Rise Viewer, the online tool that I think that a lot of you are familiar with, I have the website address if anybody is not familiar with it, shows multiple areas along South Kihei Road as being underwater at worst or the new line of vegetation at best if we hit a 3.2 foot rise of sea level. Kalama Park will be underwater. Kihei Fire Station by Kalama Park will be underwater. The Kihei Youth Center will likely be underwater. The Kihei Library, Kam I Beach Park will be underwater. Most of Halama

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

Street and all those shoreline properties will be gone and underwater. The intersection at Lipoa, here, all the way to Welakahao will likely be underwater. Also, the intersection of South Kihei Road and Kilohana Drive will be a new vegetation line. These are just a very few examples of, we talked about North Kihei Road and what's happening there now and around the island and our State that we'll be facing in the not too distant future. As leaders throughout history have kept land open for our National and State Parks, I'm asking you be our leaders and keep any open land on either side of South Kihei Road right now open. Sorry, I lost my track here. Keep these open land on either side of Kihei Road where these online tools show sea level rise effects to be held open for a managed retreat/sea level rise space or whatever we want to call it and the likely rerouting of South Kihei Road in the future. It's a new future we're facing, one that we've never seen before and we don't know what's going to happen. Let's not kick this can down the road like the number two priority, affordable housing. I agree with Councilmember Kama to use \$20 million, I believe, of the Affordable Housing project [sic] to fund affordable housing on County-owned land. There a 150 acres right above us, surrounding the Police Station in Kihei owned by the County. Let's start there right now. I would also, and if you give me a second here, like to propose and I'm in full support of increasing the real property tax rates on hotels to at least \$13 per thousand from a current level as we know of about \$9.40 and put all those extra funds into the Affordable Housing Fund. Let's catch up to the Oahu hotel tax rates, help solve our affordable housing crisis without any more delay. I also don't support any tax on biodiesel fuel. I fully support another safety officer for Kalama Park and I support one last thing, more ocean safety staff across the island.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Shapiro. Members, any need for clarification? Okay, seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening. Ms. Fujita, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Jim Lynch followed by Steve Slater.

MR. LYNCH: Good evening, Councilmembers, how are you? My name is Jim Lynch and I'm the Co-Race Director of the Maui Marathon and I wanted to come here today. You give us some money each year so, I'm gonna just read what I wrote and then if you have any questions afterwards, I'd be happy to answer them for you. So, thank you for the opportunity to have a few minutes of your time. I'm the Co-Race Director of the Maui Marathon and Vice-President of Valley Isle Road Runners, the local road running club here on Maui for since 1970. And Valley Isle Road Runners also owns the Maui Marathon. So, this year on October, this Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> will be the 49<sup>th</sup> running of the Maui Marathon, the oldest established marathon West of the Mississippi and the largest sporting event on the Island of Maui. The Maui Marathon attracts over 2,500 runners from 19 different countries along with mainland USA and the Hawaiian Islands. Our event consists of a 26.2 marathon, four-person relay, 13.1-mile half marathon, and a 10K and a 5K event. Over the past three years since John Emerson, the Race Director, and myself, took over the event from former Race Director, Rudy Huber, who did a great job over eight years, the Office of Economic Development has been a very important partner for us. You provide us \$4,500 each year that covers the cost and printing of the

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

goodie bags which is this bag that you have in front of you. And I also brought one of our medals for each one of you, from last year. Don't wear them you didn't run the marathon, but you can certainly walk around and show people them. Don't wanna get bad karma in there for you. And we brought you a nice towel which is the Maui Marathon towel. And all of our participants that are in the races get one of these bags at our expo each year. We do not have a title sponsor for the Maui Marathon, JTB two years ago decided it wasn't meeting their return on investment and though we've been trying, to date we have been unable to attract a new title sponsor for the event. Each year the expenses completely go up from police to GP Roadway Solutions, transportation for runners' signage, the racing timing company, water aid stations, food at the finish line, portable restrooms along the course, medical for the safety of the runners, and it goes on and on. Our registration fees compared to other races are very reasonable especially for Hawaii and by increasing those fees would reduce participation, so we look for ways to keep costs down without jeopardizing the quality of the event. It's also equally monumental to find 600 volunteers that we need to adequately run the race and safely put on the event. We have several organizations that are nonprofit that help us out and we give 'em \$500 to staff the aid stations, including the Mayor's office, we don't give them the \$500 but who generously participates on Aid Station Number Two. The HTA and . . . provides a lot of the funding for us. We get a grant from them. The Kaanapali Beach Resort Association, Maui Tacos, and yourselves. So, on behalf of John Emerson and myself, we appreciate your consideration for grant money again this year, and we'd like to ask you for an additional \$5,500 to help us out with some of the expenses so we can keep the quality of the event very top-notch for the islands. And that's really about it. So, mahalo, I thank you very much. You have any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, we do have a question for you.

MR. LYNCH: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair King?

MR. LYNCH: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Mr. Lynch. So, you're asking for a total of 10K right? . . .  
*(audience laughs)*. . .

MR. LYNCH: Exactly.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, so, we're giving you 4500 and you're asking for 5500?

MR. LYNCH: Right.

VICE-CHAIR KING: And then when you look for a title sponsor what does that bring in?

MR. LYNCH: When JTB was the title sponsor for years they were providing \$30,000 to the marathon and we lost the \$30,000.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, okay.

MR. LYNCH: Now, it's because the Japanese are more interested in the Honolulu Marathon and they get a lot more money or got a lot more return on investment from that race. We just don't have the high participation for them to justify \$30,000.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. LYNCH: And we're trying.

VICE-CHAIR KING: But you bring in a lot of tourist, correct?

MR. LYNCH: We are. We're bringing in at least –

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, so maybe you need to talk to the Maui Visitors Bureau?

MR. LYNCH: Pardon?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Have you talked to the Maui Visitors Bureau?

MR. LYNCH: We work with them a little bit but they don't provide us any financial funding.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, I can look at that.

MR. LYNCH: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair King. Members, any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony, Mr. Lynch.

MR. LYNCH: Okay, thank you, appreciate it. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And thank you for the goodie bags.

MR. LYNCH: You're welcome.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Steve Slater, followed by Katherine Trotsuk.

MR. SLATER: Good evening. I live on -- I live off of Keonekai Street.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. SLATER: I live off Keonekai Street, as well, and I just want to add my voice to the urgency of continuing the sidewalk on the southside of Keonekai down to South Kihei Road. I

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

go by there many times a week and it is a very dangerous situation there. People have to walk in the road. People coming down Kihei Road either from the north or the south are oftentimes in a hurry to make intersection ahead of other traffic coming and the wheel around that corner and there will be someone standing more or less in the road there and it is a very dangerous thing. Now I understand, I looked at some literature tonight that there is a project going to go on there, they're going to dig it up in a year and then they intend to do some improvements there. But, really it blows my mind that there's not a streetlight there and all these tourists coming back from Fred's and Moose's, they're all, you know, they've been out drinking and they just cross that road there. There's no light. Families and – something has to be done. If something possibly could be done on a short-term basis, an emergency light set up and maybe some sort of temporary roping off of an area there. There's oftentimes cars parked illegally right on the corner there like there's two spaces there where they're not supposed to park on the southside there. If you're not from around here, you probably don't know what I'm talking about. But, it is an urgent situation and for, to wait until a capital improvements are done on that corner certainly we need a light there, and certainly some temporary walkway can be put in there because it is indeed every time I come down there especially at night and turn up Keonekai it's like, you practically have to stop to make sure nobody's coming. And, hopefully something on a temporary basis can be implemented there. A light, I can't see where that would be that difficult to do. There's a lot of phone poles around there. And then some sort of temporary walking lane, and that's about all I have to say. Except that looks like the world's biggest centipede to me right there, on the, it's kinda scary. . . . *(audience laughs)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yikes. You wanna question?

MR. SLATER: Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We do have a question for you. Chair King?

MR. SLATER: Okay, great.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you, Mr. Slater. So, are you asking for just like a regular street light, not a traffic light or a flashing light, just?

MR. SLATER: Yes, I shoulda –

VICE-CHAIR KING: -just a regular street light . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MR. SLATER: Some kind of a street light there, it's very dark and it's heavily used at night by people particularly returning from the bars and the shops down towards those shopping centers up there.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, okay.

MR. SLATER: It's gotta be able to be done I'm sure.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you.

MR. SLATER: Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no additional questions, mahalo for your testimony this evening. It's night already. Ms. Fujita, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Katherine Trotsuk, followed by Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez.

MS. TROTZUK: Hi, good evening.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wait, we have someone coming to help.

MS. TROTZUK: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much first for coming this evening to listen to all of us, to your constituents. It really is appreciated. I'm here regarding property tax increases and I just wanted to sort of emphasize that of course the visitor industry is huge here on Maui. But, here in South Maui, it is really huge and it plays out in so many ways on so many of the businesses and the people who live here in South Maui. And, myself and my husband, we operate a B and B, so we do have the legal license, we went through that entire process which is not very easy to do, and it's very expensive. And I'm, we're really concerned that B and B operators and short-term homeowners will disproportionately be taxed in this next budget and hope that that's not going to be the case because we happen to be in the visitor business and that's a big business and so, you know, there's lots of money. But, it's not a never-ending business and there are limits to what people can charge, what owners can absorb and so on. And, of course when you have a B and B license you pay the commercial residence rate for your whole place even if you're only renting your ohana, right? So, you know, your whole property is taxed at that one rate. And, you know that when you go in to get a license so that's part of the equation that you calculate when you work on. We don't rent long-term because both, we're very fortunate because both my husband's parents are still alive, and my mom is still alive, so they come for long stretches of time, particularly the winter months, and then our kids do come from the mainland with grandkids and so, the ohana is used throughout the year for long than shorter stretches of time. But, we also, try then to cover our costs and the bigger property taxes by renting out the ohana. And, I, you know, I heard so many wonderful efforts going on, on the island and people do work incredibly hard here. But, one of the things, you know, the Made in Maui, which I love going to that event and I wonder how many of those businesses started in people's homes, right? And, they take those businesses and they turn them into something that really that gives back to the community both in tax dollars and in other ways. But, those businesses within a home pay the residential rate. I have neighbors, you know, her ohana is a gym and she runs a gym out of her ohana and she pays the residential rate. But, because I'm in the visitor business it's a significant difference and I just ask that you really think about that because, you know, we're not in it to make a lot of money but it does help with the taxes, and we're not the \$650 a night people. And, it's a big increase that I've heard you're talking about for both

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

categories and I really would ask that you consider it carefully. Thank you, any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, I do have a question.

MS. TROTZUK: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the commercial residential currently is at \$4.55.

MS. TROTZUK: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The Mayor proposed to keep it at \$4.55, and I proposed to also keep it at \$4.55.

MS. TROTZUK: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you not fall into the commercial residential?

MS. TROTZUK: That is, yes I do. But, I have also heard that there have been some conversations about increasing it by 20 or so percent.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: New commercial residential.

MS. TROTZUK: So, if I'm incorrect then, hallelujah. But, I just wanted to sort of speak up on behalf and also that you know, the short-term rental I know there's so many condo owners and wo- that's going to be a major issue for this particular part of the island if those property tax rates go up as much as has been discussed. So, and that impacts, you know, its broader than just those people who pay those taxes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, do you have any questions for our testifier? Okay, seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony this evening. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez followed by Jeff Heisel.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: Good evening, Councilmembers. Thank you very much for coming to Kihei. It's great to see you. It's also, I might add, very illuminating to be able to see the Councilmembers as we do, as they do their work and as we work with them. It would be interesting to see who in the Council Chamber is the same way. So, please continue to look at a way that we can look at each other as we work together. I think it's very, very positive. I just wanted to say a few words speaking for myself as a resident of Kihei. First of all, I'd like to ask you to remember to support the Kihei Youth Center, very, very important. I grew up in a what we call now a low-income family, my single-parent mom and I'll tell you, there was a youth center near us and it was a Godsend. It really was great so please do support them. Also, please remember the pools. In particular, I use the Kihei pool, there are literally hundreds of children each year who



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

are taught how to swim and ocean safety at the Kihei pool. It's also a tremendous resource for senior citizens who are recovering from surgery or physical therapy. We need to exercise each day. So, please do remember the pools when you are voting on funding this year. Also, make sure they have adequate lifeguards so that the pools don't find themselves shorthanded, so we need to have more lifeguards there. Thank you to Member King. I'm not sure, you know, when something goes wrong the elected official gets blamed. When something goes right they don't get any credit. I would like to say I've been really enjoying driving on South Kihei Road and a little bit on Lipoa, it's very smooth, very nice. Thank you very much for that. Please keep it up we really need that. It's nothing wrong being known as pothole Councilmember, so thank you for that. Also, a lot of people talked about sidewalks that I'm really surprised, finally this issue has been coming to the forefront. It's been bubbling around for a long time. I would like to suggest to the Council perhaps CDBG money could be used for some of these sidewalks. It's an allowable expense. In particular, we have a growing population in South Maui of seniors who are very much affected by these broken sidewalks, uneven things. So, I know CDBG money can be used for that. Thank you again, Kelly, for your work on the homeless issue and for providing a way for them to at least get basic necessities and healthcare and that kind of thing. I think that speaks to our humanity, it speaks to who we are here on Maui. Thank you very much for that. I also want to speak in support of the programs of MEO, Maui Economic Opportunity. I've been associated with them in the past and we used to like to say can you imagine Maui without MEO. Finally, I'd like to say support the nonprofits, they're doing a great job. Well, you know, they take a dime and stretch it and make it two dollars. And for affordable housing, please continue to put additional money into the Affordable Housing Fund and remember without adequate water supply there can be no adequate affordable housing. So, let's keep those two issues together, water and affordable housing. And finally, I'd like to suggest an idea that you may or may not want to consider at some point in time, and that is to issue bonds for housing to raise money specifically to build working affordable housing and you go into the bond market and get that money because that is investment paid back and increase property taxes and increase community safety. It's all about the quality of our lives here on Maui. I just spent 11 days on the mainland. I cannot tell you how delighted I am to be home. People are tense, they're angry, they don't talk to each other, they're very, very aggressive. It's not like Maui. This is a great meeting tonight and thank you very much for coming again. Again, thank you, Kelly for being a great Member. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, we do have a question for you. Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for coming Tom and I just wanted to ask you about your comments when you first opened up and you said how nice it is to look at us. Are you referring to the fact that it's nicer to look at our faces than our backs?

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: Well, I would not want to say there's any part of you not worth enjoying but I do want to say that to be able to see someone's face when you talk to them is just a very warm feeling.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: And, I know that it's very controversial and what have you, but, if you take a look a look at this, you can see how it would work.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, I appreciate that because, you know, that's been one of my things I'm working on is to try to get the Council Chambers turned around so that we're facing our public and not sitting with our backs to the Chambers. So, thank you for that comment.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: All right, thank you very much and thank you again for coming to Kihei, aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony tonight. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers.

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Jeff Heisel followed by Nat Boyum.

MR. HEISEL: Hi, thank you. Yeah, I'm Jeff Heisel. I agree with you, Kelly, that it's much more pleasurable and connected to have you facing us. I know you offer your service, I know you get paid, but it's still a huge service. So, I'm here to talk in support of the Maui Humane Society. They are listed in the budget to get a raise in their funding and, so, I with my wife, we volunteer there two, three times a week probably we average eight to ten hours a week. So, we spend a lot of time there. So, we know, that's from the last couple of years, we know every department, we know the people in the office and the Vet clinic, the management, the CEO. And, we go there with such joy, we have such joy there because they really work as a team, really like a family with such commitment and dedication. And I know, cause I been here 30 years, I know in the past it hasn't been like that. That it used to be very dark feelings over there, a lot of controversy in the community. Now it's really a place the community can be very proud of. And they do, you know, some people look at them, oh, that's for animal lovers but, that's such an essential service in the community, keeping the animal control. And, I know that they go above and beyond what's needed to save the animals, to take care of the animals. I see the Vets working long shifts. Animals that I think oh, they're probably going to get put down. No, they take the time, they bring them in, they do the surgeries. And, I'm coming from a business background, so, often I'm talking with like the CEO, Jerleen Bryant or somebody about hey, you know, this would be good if you do this, this and the answer was always the budget is just too tight. And, where I see it because I work very closely with the animal care attendants, they call them ACAs. They're the ones that they're really in the trenches there picking up the poops, washing the animals, scrubbing down the kennels, taking them out, lifting up 50-pound dogs, you know, just cause it has to be done. All while the laundry is constantly going all day. They work their tails off and they get paid the lowest. They get like 10 bucks an hour or 11 bucks an hour and I cry to the management, I said, you have to pay them more and because I'm with them they're telling me I'm leaving because I love it here. I would stay here but I can't live on that. So they leave because other places, McDonald's or whatever paying

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

13, 14. So, that's my whole intent to help them get more money so they can raise them up so they can have a decent life doing what they love in service to the community. So, I guess they are hoping that you approve that raise and I would say kick it up some more, you know, really trust them that they're going to do great things with that money. Thank you. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions. Mahalo for your testimony tonight Mr. Heisel.

MR. HEISEL: Thank very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: Then next testifier is Nat Boyum followed by Dr. Mary Trotto.

MR. BOYUM: Aloha, good evening. My name is Nat Boyum. I am here on behalf of MEO Head Start here in Kihei. My daughter is completing her first year there, she's gonna return next year to the program. I really hope to continue funding for the program and to keep it to two o'clock. The program is amazing, I've seen a lot of improvement in her academic skills. She's three, she'll be four next month. She can write the first three letters of her name now with good accuracy. Just small things like that but I think it's very important. I've never went to kindergarten or any pre-K stuff. I started at Haiku School at first grade and my first year was kind of a wash. I didn't know a lot of basic stuff that she knows at three and I was six, so, as far as academic it's been amazing. Also, just from the limited reading and stuff that I know, I know that pre, you know, the pre-K stuff is very good for developmental and further education, getting 'em comfortable. As far as the program effect on like my family life is really amazing because as everybody knows childcare is very expensive here. So, not only is it an educational experience for my daughter, but it allows both me and my wife to work and we don't have to pay between \$800 and \$1200 a month for childcare. I see it in this like a holistic situation. You know, if people are paying that much and they don't have any other opportunities then it makes stress within the family, domestic violence, drug abuse, alcohol abuse. Also, housing, you know, if you don't have secure finances then you don't have secure housing. And then the parents break-up and the kids . . . you know, it makes it a real hard time. So, it's been a big help for us. Please continue till two and continue the program. Thank you. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Boyum.

MR. BOYUM: Okay, all right, thank you. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good job. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Dr. Mary Trotto followed by Colin McCormick.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll get some help for you. Oh, she got it.

MS. TROTTO: I got it. Aloha, Councilmembers. And, thank you for coming to, out Kihei and hopefully you spend some time this afternoon, walking around Kihei enjoying it. I have a lot of different hats but I'm not coming as any of those hats today. I'm just coming as a person who lives in Kihei and I'm very concerned about some of the things that are happening that I see that the quality of life is going to be, about to change. In Kihei alone, if all the projects that have been approved get developed, we're going to have something like 600 to 1000 more units that are going to be needing use of our facilities, our roads. And, looking at the road situation and how many roads we have and how much it costs to improve the roads, I think we really need to look at – and I don't know if it's just a Council, County but may have to work with the State. But, I think it's time for us to get into public transportation. And I think busses, and specifically I'm looking at express busses from the airport to Kihei, express buses to the airport to Lahaina, so that I think a lot of the tourists will take busses to these, to our tourist facilities. I know for myself, if there was a bus and express bus that went from Kihei, and I was just going to Oahu for a couple days, I'd take the bus. But, no, I have to ask somebody to drive me to the airport and then later on, I have to ask them to come pick me up. And all those extra cars are on the road. So, even if we take 10 percent of the traffic off the road cause we have busses, I think that would make a big difference in our traffic flow. Both to Lahaina and to Kihei, Wailea, Makena. So, that's my first thing. The second thing that I want to talk about is the support of all the nonprofits. And many of you know I'm involved in Hale Kau Kau. But, it's not just Hale Kau Kau. I hope the Council will support all of the nonprofits that spoke. The marine resources [sic], the youth programs, they're so much, so important, all of the nonprofits are so important to the life in this community. Just to give you an example, Hale Kau Kau is feeding 85 homebound adults every single night and the youth programs are taking care of our children, and Head Start takes care of our little keiki. So, please support all the nonprofits. They work hard and they really change the fabric of what we're doing. And, finally, the last thing I just wanted thank you for all support in providing funding Kihei and please consider some of the people who spoke today. We really do need sidewalks in Kihei. Not just in Keonekai but, if you go down South Kihei Road it's okay from Lipoa, south. But, go from Lipoa, north, and you're in the middle of Kihei Road [sic]. And if you think Keonekai is dangerous, walking on Kihei Road is even worse. Thank you so much for your support. Aloha. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions, mahalo for your testimony tonight. Oh, I'm sorry, there is one question, sorry. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi, thank you for being here tonight. I completely support the express busses. I was wondering, though, if you are aware they built a \$300 million rental car facility at the airport?

MS. TROTTO: Yes, I am, but I think that we can work in harmony. I don't think that providing busses to these tourist areas is going to impact so much on rentals. People are still

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

gonna rent cars. But, there are an awful lot of people who come to Maui, they come to our beaches, they come to our resorts and what they want to do is basically vegetate. They don't want to go anywhere, they don't wanna visit anything and, so they don't need a car. But they have to have a car to get from the airport to the resort.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So just mixture then of options?

MS. TROTTO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it.

MS. TROTTO: I don't think we're gonna do away with rental cars.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony tonight. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Colin McCormick followed by Eli Wynne.

MR. MCCORMICK: Aloha, Councilmembers. Good to see you tonight and thank you for your patience. Eli was a student that I brought but he had to go home. I'm a teacher at Lokelani Intermediate and I'm here tonight to support programs that help teachers like me such as STEMWorks, which Karen Wright from Kalama was here to speak passionately about and so is Mark, friends of mine. I teach seventh grade life science and agriculture. It's my third year now and if it wasn't for them I wouldn't have been able to get this far because they have given me so many resources and tools to get my students opportunities and for us to do projects. You know, it's hard to get money as a teacher and sometimes you need supplies when things come up. STEMWorks has been really my umbrella. Grow Some Good has also been wonderful at our school. They've really helped manage our garden there. I'm part of the STEMWorks family, ohana at our school and I run the agriculture club there and the FFA, Future Farmers of America. Just last week we went over to Oahu. I took five 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders with me and we competed in the State convention and some of these kids smoked high schoolers over there it was awesome, you know, because we were one of the only few middle schools there and we got first place in vegetable judging. There was 15 schools from all the islands except Lanai, it was the only one that wasn't there. And, it was very empowering for them because we went to the State Capitol also, and we met with representative and we were in the Chamber Hall and we all got recognition. Every Chamber, every representative there had different chapters stand and we got to honor and, I think these experiences are going to stay with them forever. And, you know, upcoming is the STEM Conference, May 1<sup>st</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and that's going to be another exciting event. There'll be entrepreneurs from around the world and learn to share their ideas. My students are developing a website and we're doing wonderful projects at our school. We're trying to expand our fruit tree orchard with Grow Some Good's help. We're developing a native plant garden that's representative of native plant populations from South Maui. We're doing a cafeteria green waste reduction project to try to eliminate the amount of green

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

waste we send to our landfill. And, you know, STEMWorks, again has been there to get the supplies we need to get the projects done whether it's soil, irrigation. So, in short, I just want to say I'm very thankful and please continue to support them. They've helped us, you know, so we can empower the future generations cause I'm here to stay and I don't want, you know, I want to be a part of that and thank you for your support. . . .  
*.(applause). . . .*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. So, is Colin McCormick your student.

MR. MCCORMICK: No, that's me, I'm Colin.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, so you –

MR. MCCORMICK: Eli Wynne, who was coming next. So there's – he won't be here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -Eli, okay.

MR. MCCORMICK: He was a seventh grader and he's now had to go home, yeah. He wanted to speak cause I told him, hey, you know, STEMWorks is, you know, they want some people so we can, you know, we want us, you know, talk about what we do and he's like, I'm coming cause he knows what we've been doing and he knows how much they've helped us. So, he was happy to stay here for couple hours and then he finally got picked up. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Civic engagement is also a very important lesson so, mahalo for bringing your student. Next time, please let our Staff know if you have keiki we give keiki and kupuna preference because we know that, you know, they have bad time. Members, do you have questions for our testifier? Okay, seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony tonight.

MR. MCCORMICK: Thank you, no problem. Aloha. . . .*.(applause). . . .*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Kelli Medeiros, followed by Daniel Kanahele.

MS. MEDEIROS: Hi, my name is Kelli Medeiros. I'm here on behalf of the Maui Humane Society, also. I was a, I've fostered triple digit kittens for the Maui Humane Society, lots of puppies as well. I've adopted, well, sort of adopted six animals from there, they mostly were fosters but just never really left. And I used to be a vet tech there, as well as, some clinics in Kahului. So, I just wanted to let you guys know that the Maui Humane Society has a 90 percent live release rate for dogs and cats right now, which is huge compared to like when I worked there, it was not that. They're MASH program for their trap, neuter, release for community cats, I also am involved in the community cat project and

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

no matter what side of the program you're on, like you hate the cats or you love the cats, they've fixed 6,000 animals in the 2017-18 Fiscal Year. If even half of those were cats, say, I'm sure about 80 percent were, but, if even 50 percent of those were cats, they prevented 18,000 kittens in one year from being born that would have been probably feral cats. And if those cats were allowed to have kittens, half the cats were allowed to have kittens for one more year, they prevented 216 kittens from being born. So, I mean, no matter what side of the fence you're on it's really good, you know, if you don't want to have the community cats, they're preventing it. If you like the community cats, then you know that reducing the population is the only thing that's going to be good. So, they bring vets from the mainland. They do MASH clinics which I also volunteer at. Dogs, cats, people who can't afford to have their pets fixed to go, the ACOs will go pick up animals in Hana, bring them to the clinics, have them fixed and drive them all the way back to the owners who can't afford to fix their animals. And I believe they're teaching the community the importance of spaying, neutering and caring for their pets. So, the programs that they do with the kids and stuff at the Humane Society, and I believe they do some stuff at some of the schools where they talk about it. I think it's just going to generate a better population of people who treat animals with respect and understand the importance of maintaining animal population and not letting it get out of control. So, I'm just asking you to keep them in your budget because like the man said before, the reason I am not in that profession anymore is because I couldn't pay my bills. Like, I've been a bartender my whole life and if I had the choice of what I would do it would be animals. But I can't pay my bills doing that. So, now I just bartend and use all my extra money for the community cats and the fosters. But, that's all and thank you very much for time. . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions, mahalo, Ms. Medeiros for your testimony tonight. Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Daniel Kanahele, followed by Michael Ramos.

MR. KANAHELE: As we say in South Maui, good evening. . . . (audience laughs). . . . Welcome to the Kula Kai Moku. Thank you for this one-stop talk. Appreciate you being with us. In 2012, Maui Meadows became the pilot area for the three-can plan curbside recycling program. Seven years later, Maui Meadows is still the pilot program for the three-can plan curbside recycling program. We like it. It makes us feel good to do the three R's – reduce, reuse and recycle, right? So, you know, my bill went from \$108 in 2012 to four times that now, 430 something odd dollars, I pay for the three-can plan. And I imagine will continue to rise. You know, we've been willing to pay for it because we believe in it. I'm just wondering if you believe in it. What is the long-term plan for curbside recycling in the County. I mean seven years is a long time for a pilot program, right? What are the numbers? We used to get reports on how much things were being diverted from the landfill. Green waste, recycling, we don't get those reports anymore. We'd like to get those reports, we'd like to know if we're doing a good job, if it's working. What are the numbers? How much does the program cost? How much is it costing us? Now we're paying a X-amount of dollars, is it being subsidized? What is the actual cost? Can someone do that, get the numbers for us? Cause I think after seven years we deserve

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

to know how much is being diverted and what the actual cost of the program is to the County, to the taxpayer. Last year, we had our first major road maintenance in Maui Meadows. You know, some of our roads are 25 years old and so, in 2014, John Smith who was a traffic engineer for the Highways Division of the Public Works Department came to Maui Meadows at the invitation of the Maui Meadows Neighborhood Association, inspected our roads and say eh, this is a perfect place for ceiling work. We're going to schedule you and he mentioned 2017. Nothing happened in 2017 so the Maui Meadows Association contacted Public Works, spoke to the Assistant Deputy Director [sic], Rowena. We spoke to our County Councilperson at that time, Kelly King. And then a few months later we were scheduled. Is that magic or coincidence? I don't know. Whatever it is, last year we had our first major pavement preservation program using slurry seal. I don't know how many of you are familiar with slurry seal but it's a new technology. It's much cheaper than just repaving it. You put a seal over it and it gives the pavement an extra seven to ten years of life. When I spoke to John, John Smith is currently the head of the Highway Division of the County [sic], he says, you know, our machine, we only have one machine, it's in high demand all over the County. It's being used all over the place cause it's cheaper and quicker than repaving. He said it'd be great if we could get a second sealer and have a second crew to take care of all the road maintenance needs in the County. Maybe you can check into that. How much does it cost for a second sealer cause we're an auto-centric society, face it . . . and it'd be great to have someplace to store it. You have your baseyard in Central, right? It'd be great to have a baseyard in Kihei somewhere, second one, yeah so you can kind of spread it out. We have two slurry sealing machine, you have two crews, you can take care of your roads in a much quicker fashion, much cheaper. So, maybe someone can check into that and be a hero. . . (chuckles) . . . and come back to us and report, right? So, those are my two comments from my hood.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Kanahele, for your testimony. We have two questions for you.

MR. KANAHELE: Two? Wow. I never get two questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair King and Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks for being here, Daniel.

MR. KANAHELE: Thank you, thank you, it's –

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, I wanted to tell you about the three-can plan because then, yeah I've been asking why it keeps being a pilot project but, the – what are you paying above the regular cost? Because you folks in Maui Meadows are paying an extra stipend for that.

MR. KANAHELE: Yeah, we pay for regular refuse pickup.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, then what's your extra cost?



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MR. KANAHELE: I didn't bring my bill with me but it's the, with the three-can plan I'm thinking it's an additional \$200 per year or something along that range, but I'm just guessing.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, because I just wanted to tell you that when I asked they said that was the cost of the plan. So, supposedly taxpayers are not paying for that, you guys are paying for the extra three-can plan.

MR. KANAHELE: Okay, so it's not being subsidized?

VICE-CHAIR KING: You're paying for it.

MR. KANAHELE: We're paying for it.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Right.

MR. KANAHELE: Yeah, so we reached that point now.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah.

MR. KANAHELE: We're paying for it.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, but, we have to do some fast talking at the County Public Works to convince them, or DEM to convince them that it's worth doing at other places. So –

MR. KANAHELE: Yeah, that's why we did it. If it's working, is it working or not? And if it's working, . . . .(inaudible). . . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: It's working for you guys but not everybody else is wanting to pay for it that's the problem. But, I appreciate the fact that you, that Maui Meadows is willing to pay for it, so, thank you.

MR. KANAHELE: Maybe others, maybe it's an option you can give to others, right?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you. It's a drag along program because if you do it in an area you have, everybody has to be on it or it gets more expensive for the few that are, so that's the issue with it. Anyway, thanks for being here.

MR. KANAHELE: Understood.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it sounds like it's an additional \$17 a month?

MR. KANAHELE: I'm . . . I'm guessing it's –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The 32 plus 17.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

MR. KANAHELE: -fifty percent of what we pay. Probably more than 50 percent of what we pay, of the \$430 we pay every year for it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to let you know the crack seal hot pot is \$30,000 or our West Maui one broke so I'm glad to hear that the slurry seal –

MR. KANAHELE: The crack seed? Did you say crack seed, I don't know. The crack seal?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The slurry seal, the crack seal hot pot.

MR. KANAHELE: The slurry seal, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. KANAHELE: For a sealer?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. KANAHELE: That's pretty cheap. You sure?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, so ours broke, maybe we can get two for one deal.

MR. KANAHELE: That is really cheap.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For what it does, and for sure you're going to save money if it just costs \$30,000 for that machine. Okay, well, mahalo. Thank you. Hopefully we'll be able to say goodnight to you very soon. Nah, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony tonight. Okay, Ms. Fujita, will you please call up our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Michael Ramos followed by Kimokeo Kapahulehua.

MR. RAMOS: Aloha, everybody. I'm Michael Ramos. I'm 63, got six kids, and I'm a pool builder. Amy was my wife. So, she's the one that left earlier, she left frustrated and ashamed that she couldn't get her point across. So, we have a short-term vacation rental. It's legal. It's legal. I'm a pool builder. I'm all over this island. You know how many illegal ones I see, that no one's taking care of? They're all over the place. But, we're legal, we did everything we needed to do. We put thousands of dollars into the property in order to go and rent the thing. That's what was required. We did everything legal, made sure everything, made sure everything was perfect. And, we pay all of our taxes but what happens? About a year ago you jacked up our taxes again. And, it was only the reason because you're a short-term vacation rental. And, nobody listened, actually, Amy was over and went to one of the meetings and nobody even looked up at

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

her. They all looked down, they were bored. One guy was sleeping! I can't believe it. This is embarrassing! I'm a businessman, I work all the time. I work seven days a week. And this is the way we're treated. I don't understand it. I just, you know, I was just very frustrated, I was very hurt that she was hurt in the parking lot. She couldn't get her point across. I don't understand any of it. You know, why should you punish and have a higher tax than a hotel for someone that has a small business. I don't understand it. Can anybody explain it to me? I see all the effort my wife puts into it. She's there twice a week just to clean the swimming pool. She does get 650 a night for it but she has a landscaper goes in there, takes care of everything. She pays higher taxes on everything. She pays more for electric, fuel, taxes, everything! Everything is escalated! So, when you think of like \$650 a night, that's a bargain for these people to come over here and go and use a hotel! It's a three-bedroom house. And for, everybody's – I know what's happening. Everybody's saying well, we could just charge more money for it. But, exactly what you guys are doing, you're raising up the taxes on everything, you're gonna make it hard for the people that are trying to make a living over here. I work hard to make a living over here! And, and what you're going to do is make everybody else say, they're going to say I'm gonna go about it this way - I'm gonna do it illegally, then nobody gets their taxes. This is not the way to go and treat somebody in Maui. I've been here for 30 years and I just don't understand the way the things operate over here! Yeah, if I go to the, for a building permit for one of my swimming pools, minimum three months, and I've had to wait for a year on one of them! For a couple in Makawao. This is not the way you go and treat people. How do you get anything done over here. You're talking about affordable housing? Nobody can even get a house! How you think you gonna get a permit if they just, it cost a fortune to get anything developed over here. It cost 'em a fortune to just to go for their building permits. I came from the mainland 30 years ago and you had a building permit within a week, not three months! I don't understand it. If someone could explain it to me then I would love to hear it. That's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, for your testimony. Just good questions to clarify. So, early in your testimony you said that no one would make eye contact with your wife or, and then there was one person sleeping. Was that the former Council? Cause I know I made eye contact with your wife the entire testimony.

MR. RAMOS: I wasn't there. She told me about it. She said she was going to the meetings. I think it was last – it was about a year ago.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, not this Council tonight? Okay, so just not this Council tonight.

MR. RAMOS: Oh, I don't know who it was. But it was like a year ago and –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, previous Council.

MR. RAMOS: -they wouldn't even raise their head. You know, and she came back, she was like, she was fuming. Like, nobody listened . . . . .(inaudible). . . .

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right, so,

MR. RAMOS: We live in Maui. I'm trying like you wouldn't believe, trying to make a living for my family and people and putting into the different category –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Mr. Ramos, you answered my question. Thank you.

MR. RAMOS: Yeah, okay, sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Members, so we have a question from Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Actually, it's just more of a comment. I just wanted to assure you that you were heard and your wife was heard. When, you know, these are just proposals and so that's why we hold these hearings so we can get reactions to the proposals. So, we're taking all of this information in, nothing that has been proposed is set in stone. So, I just wanted to assure you that we are listening and that's why we're holding these hearings.

MR. RAMOS: That's what she thought.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks for coming out.

MR. RAMOS: I just see my wife when she goes to the meetings, come back, she's just very frustrated that nothing is being heard. And, a lot of people don't understand that there's so much that has to go on. I got a honey-do list on our vacation rental that'll last me my lifetime.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Well, you know, I just want to let you know that – and maybe she was at one of these hearings where we created that short-term rental category. And that happened in my last term. But, I voted against it, but, I was outvoted so, I did hear her.

MR. RAMOS: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Michael for being here. You know, we're, this is what we want to hear from the people that this is being affected. And so, you know, to look at, you know, how we're helping some of the families. I know that if you're a homeowner in one of the categories, you do qualify for a homeowner exemption. So, these are some of the types of the things we want to look at. If, you know, if you can qualify for different types of exemption or if we need to be really looking at some of these –

MR. RAMOS: Well, this is for short-term --

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Short-term.

MR. RAMOS: -vacation rental. So we made --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: This is not for the commercial residential?

MR. RAMOS: --our home into a short-term vacation rental --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. RAMOS: -a few years ago. And we did everything legally with all the permits, it cost us thousands. We had to go and get a --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Do you live at the property? Your wife?

MR. RAMOS: Not any more, no. We had to move out.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Okay, thank you for that clarification.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Just a comment. Thank you for being here, Mr. Ramos. But, I want to just let you know that we share your frustration and that's why many of us who are new on the Council ran because of our own frustrations with so many things that weren't being done. And we've been on board since January 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year and we're really, I think, moving forward and we hope to have a better report for you come next year. But, thank you and always, always don't be ashamed to speak because we are listening and we take that under close advisement and scrutiny. To, thank you.

MR. RAMOS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions, mahalo, Mr. Ramos for your testimony tonight.

MR. RAMOS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Kimokeo Kapahulehua followed by Adele Rugg.

MR. KAPAHULEHUA: Good evening, Members, Chair Kelly King, thank you all for being down here in South Maui. It's too bad that Riki Hokama is not here. But, I wanna just say that first of all, that we have some really essential things that is on your budget. And if it's not on your budget and if it's not on your budget we ask that you put it on your budget. That's our fire department, our police department, our ambulance service, our

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

ocean safety service. These guys are 24 hours out there watching our community. And so, whenever their requests, I wanna tell you that I support their requests. You know, newspaper said they didn't have enough police cars. Our police guys is from the tunnel all the way down to Makena. So, just imaging all of us guys here, we don't have a hospital. The hospital in Central Maui. So, take us half an hour pick over there, going take us 45 minutes going get there. So, when they going get to them, hour and 15 minutes. You know what I mean? And we wanna thank you guys for supporting the Medivac, you know, we just got our own Medivac helicopter and you were part of that support. So, we're . . . now can go to Molokai and Lanai and we ask you to continue support that and hopefully you get another helicopter so we just serve Lanai and Molokai and make that station maybe on Molokai, I don't know. But, would be quicker for them to be rescued on the land and in the ocean by the helicopter. So, we thank you for that. So I came here this evening to testify in behalf of all these essential things that we need and that we have, and that you not only maintain but, looking towards making sure that we supply what they need because they are 24 hours for us. And, we thank them for being here tonight, and we just wanna say that. Secondly, I want to thank you that Kihei Youth Center, we're in business for 36 years, we're the oldest youth center, and we stand by Kihei Youth Center. Several of us chose not to be the Boys and Girls Club for various reasons but we do support the Boys and Girls Club and we have them here now in South Maui. So, we so thankful that we have the Kihei Youth Center, the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA. So, we're really fortunate to have that. And the other thing, it's really . . . in need and again, some of them spoke in behalf of them. I'm speaking about MEO. So, MEO is like . . . and for us it's like the kupuna to moopuna. MEO is the only transportation, only part that we have in our County that can serve the moopuna to kupuna. You know, taking the kids from one place to another place from South Maui to North, South Kihei to North Kihei, and bringing them from the school area, picking up our children at the schools after-school, after taking [sic] down to the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA. Anyway, I can stay up here all night and tell you that the things that our ohana appreciates and that you gotta look at those things making sure that our keikis have a safe environment and serviced by our police department, fire department and ambulance. Thank you very much for being here. Aloha. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony tonight.

MR. KAPAHULEHUA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita, will you please call the next two testifiers.

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Adele Rugg followed by George Burnette.

MS. RUGG: Good evening and aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for staying here so late. I'll keep my message very brief. Again, it's, thanks for coming for our hood here in Kihei. Couple of things I'm really, really concerned about the increase in the taxes. I really, really, really wish you would look at the timeshares. I cannot believe how many

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

timeshares we have on this island. Each timeshare condo makes a ton of money each one so, instead of going after the vacation rentals please, please look at the timeshares. The other issue, I am on the board, I'm honored to be on the board of MEO, Maui Economic Opportunity. Please, please continue your funding for them. Every person on this island at one time or another has been affected by the good things that MEO does for our community, so, please continue to fund them. Also, another issue I've had over the years is the Maui Visitors Bureau. They get so much money. Maui, I would ask that you decrease their funding. I still don't know where they go, what they do, Maui is over-loved. You go to the airport and you see the thousands of people that are coming here and the hundreds of people that are on our roads, and all of the new condo and hotels that are going to go down here in Wailea, it's becoming a nightmare with traffic in South Maui. And, Maui Visitors Bureau doesn't need to go to the mainland anymore or go worldwide to sell our island. Our island I over-loved already. Also, for South Maui Parks, please take care of our wonderful parks. Another thing in South Maui, the North-South Collector Road. I know we've talked about it for years. Please, please make the North-South Collector Road happen. Also, I'm on the board of the Maui County Sister Cities Foundation. I would ask that you continue to support them and increase our funding. We have 27 sister cities around the world and a lot of them do come to Maui and we show them our aloha spirit with the funding that you give to them. Also, continue to take care of our wonderful kupuna and as you probably know, we take better of our seniors than any other City or County in the Country, per Riki Hokama, he said that once. So, we appreciate the funding that you give to the Kupuna. Also, one last thing, please, please, continue to take care of our first responders. As Kimokeo said, they work for us 24/7. Please, please remember them whatever they need, I can assure you it is something that is requested and needed by our first responders both fire and police. Thank you very much. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. We have a question for you from Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Hi Adele, nice to see you again. Just real quickly, you mention about the decrease for the MVB funding. I believe the mayor is recommending four million. Your thoughts, how much would you think is fair?

MS. RUGG: Three million. Serious.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: That's about a one million decrease.

MS. RUGG: Yah, I really don't know what they do. Maui is over-loved.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

MS. RUGG: You're welcome.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any other questions. We actually just received the report from MVB that kind of outlines what they spent money. And it's available on our website.

MS. RUGG: Yay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you would like to see the report it might be pretty enlightening.

MS. RUGG: Two million. Nah, nah, nah. . . .*(audience laughs)* . . . So, just go to the office --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go MauiCounty.us/agendas and click on the Economic, Development and Budget Committee, EDB item 1, and then when you click onto meeting details, it'll list all the correspondence that we've had for this agenda item.

MS. RUGG: You're talking to a senior, I'll check with Traci, she'll give me.

VICE-CHAIR KING: You can call my office.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or you can call your Councilmember's office.

MS. RUGG: That's right. Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fujita, will you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: The last person signed up to testify is George Burnette.

MR. BURNETTE: I'm last, wow. My name is George Burnette. I'd like to, oh . . . full disclosure I was married on Sunday and, . . .*(applause)*. . . my head is still spinning, I'm seriously braindead right now. But, I'd like to put in a word about affordable housing because up until the break, there was nobody said a word about affordable housing and that concerned me. I'm really glad I came here this evening, this has been a wonderful evening and listening to all these great programs was just fantastic. And having you people here that support the programs, it's really just been an uplifting. I retired three years ago and so I was looking around for things to do in retirement. And mostly what I've done was with the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council as a volunteer and also paid employee. But, I did become concerned about the issue of affordable housing. And I started attending meetings of an organization called FACE Maui. And my experience with them was really wonderful. Although, I have to admit, I didn't really understand a lot of what they were saying in the meetings, a lot of jargon. But something really great there. I met somebody that I think is quite wonderful and her name is Tasha Kama.



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

So, I don't feel qualified to speak much about affordable housing. But as a lay person I would describe it, what I have seen. It's like a car that's in the mud and its wheels are spinning and the car is not going anywhere. So, I looked at your budget this evening and it says Housing and Human Concerns \$23.5 million. And if I turn that over and look at Housing and Human Concerns, there's a whole bunch of other programs there that look really wonderful but don't have to do with affordable housing. So, and then I'm aware there's something called an Affordable Housing Fund. But, my understanding is that's not actually money that has a project. It's money that people can ask to use to do something. So, it's not actually being used, it's sitting there waiting for someone to ask for it. What concerned me the most is I called the Mayor's office to talk about the Wailuku Civic Center and I talked to somebody really nice. I think her name was Erin. And, I brought up the subject of affordable housing. She said it was Mayor's idea to put a lot of money into affordable housing two years from now. And, I didn't even know what to say to that because I watched you guys run for office. I went to some of the debates. I saw the debates on Akaku, I think I saw all of you talk about how important this issue is, like this is our number one issue. I mean there's all these issues, I don't know how you sort it out. So, I'm asking you please consider this issue of affordable housing more than what I see in this budget. Make that more of a priority and, I mean, is Maui just going to become a place for people like me who can afford things? Is that what we're going to do in Maui? And, I hope not. Thank you. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any questions? Seeing none, yeah, none? Okay, mahalo, Mr. Burnette for your testimony and congratulations, on your wedding on Sunday. . . .(applause). . . .

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members, any last comments? If not, I'm going to hand the mic to Chair King for closing remarks.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you. Well, just for those of you who stuck it out are still with us, thank you. I think it's really interesting, you know, and we've heard this from every other group. That it's really interesting to sit and listen to all of the things that are going in the community, all the concerns, people's projects. So, I appreciate the fact that those who are still here are involved enough to really care about that. And thank you for coming out and speaking. This has been the longest session we've had so far, so I'm really proud of community. You guys came out in spades. I was hoping Mary would come forward and ask for her truck, but maybe I have to talk to her on the side. Okay, thank you and good night everybody. Aloha. . . .(applause). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, again, for coming out. It is 9:28 on April 9, and the Economic Development and Budget Committee is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: RH)

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2019**  
**South Maui District**

---

**ADJOURN: 9:28 p.m.**

APPROVED:



---

KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair  
Economic Development and Budget Committee

edb:min:190409-South Maui-final

Transcribed by: Stacey Vinoray