

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 11, 2019

Paia Community Center, Social 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: VOTING MEMBERS:
Councilmember Riki Hokama, Member

STAFF: David Raatz, Supervising Legislative Analyst
Alison Stewart, Substitute Legislative Analyst
Nicole Siegel, Substitute Secretary
Rayna Yap, Substitute Secretary
Gary Saldana, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Stacy Takahashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly T. King
Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci

OTHERS: Leila Larson, Club Director, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Haiku
Uilani Riggs, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Haiku
Ashanti Moepono-Kealoha, Boys and Girls Club, Haiku
Makana Brittain, Boys and Girls Club, Haiku
Malik Bell, Education Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui
Janice Lambert, Boys and Girls Club
Nicole Bianchi Derose, Boys and Girls Club
Franco Melgar, Boys and Girls Club
Allaurah Bortoli, Farm Apprentice Mentorship Program
Kayla McCarthy, Paia Youth and Cultural Center
Liliana Yamashita, MEO Youth Services Underage Drinking Prevention Program
Tehya Dominguez, Paia Youth and Cultural Center
Charlie Aaron, Paia Youth and Cultural Center
Rohan Fahland, Malama Pono Project Venture, Paia Youth and Cultural Center
Miki Preciechowski, Paia Youth and Cultural Center

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Marley, Paia Youth and Cultural Center
Sebastian Bianchi, Paia Youth and Cultural Center
Trey Lu, Ho`oulu Na Kamali`i Youth Program
Richelle Lu, Ho`oulu Na Kamali`i Youth Program
Leslie Lau Hee, Ho`oulu Na Kamali`i Youth Program
Francine Aarona, Paia Town Association
Noelani Sugata, Paia Town Association
Simon Russell, MEO Head Start
Susun White, Paia Youth and Cultural Center
David Daly, MEO Business Development Center
Sesa Beard, MEO Business Development Center
Barry Rivers, Maui Film Festival
Richard Lucas, Friends of Old Maui High
Kathy McDuff, Friends of Old Maui High
Craig Mojonnier, Paia Youth and Cultural Center, Boys and Girls Club,
MEO, Maui Film Festival
Phyllis Robinson, Hawaii Farmers Union United
Beth Savitt, Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program, HFUU, and children's
programs
Billy Jalbert, Paia Youth and Cultural Center
Frances Duberstein, Maui Youth and Family Services
Lisa Swoveland, Malama Na Makua A Keiki
Lehn Huff, Maui School Garden Network, Grow Some Good
John Dobovan, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Farm Apprentice Mentoring
Program, and Common Ground Collective
Mary Bailey, Maui Visitors Bureau
Kelly Day, Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program
Om Aloha, Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program
Cynthia Conrad, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Adam Knox, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Abigail Llewellyn, Farm Apprentice Mentoring
Paul Pyzyna, Mental Health America of Hawaii
David Johnson, Mental Health America of Hawaii
Adam Hicks, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Georgia Pinsky, Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program, HFUU
Brooke Mahnken, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Emily Hoke, Farm Apprentice Mentoring
Anastasia Malson, MEO Rental Assistance Program
Hugh Starr, Holomua Road improvements
Ian Chan Hodges, Maui ESG Ahupua'a Conference
Shay Chan Hodges, Maui ESG Ahupua'a Conference
Becky Erickson, Maui Invasive Species Committee
George Chyz, Increase taxes
Angelo Sanvidotto, MEO Head Start
Adam Radford, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Lynn Rasmussen, Maui Invasive Species Committee

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Nikhilananda
Lucienne de Naie
Others (15)

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha `auinala ka kou.

ALL: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please come to order? It is 6:04 on April 11th. Mahalo, everyone, for coming out tonight. It's great to see so many faces. We look forward to hearing your mana`o. I'm Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. I'm the Chair of the Economic Development and Budget Committee, and I'm going to hand...

AUDIENCE: . . .*(Applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And I'm going to hand the mic over to your district Councilmember, Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Alright, thank you. Mahalo, Madam Chair. How about a hand for our Budget Chairman, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, from the beautiful island of Molokai. Let me now introduce to you my fellow Council colleagues. Over to my far right, representing the port city of Kahului, Councilmember Tasha Kama. And coming all the way to us from heavenly Hana, Mr. Shane Sinenci. And from the beautiful Upcountry side of Maui County, with Kula, Upcountry area, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. And, after taking a 20-year vacation from the Maui County Council, she is back, Wailuku Member, Alice Lee. And over to my near left here from the always beautiful and sunny West Maui area, Ms. Tamara Paltin. And last but not least, our gracious Council Chair, Kihei's own, Kelly King. And by the way, Council Chair King cannot stay with us the whole evening, she has a flight to catch, very busy lady. But thank you for being here to see all of our wonderful people out here in the Paia-Haiku-Makawao area and elsewhere. I'd like to introduce to you our hardworking staff. We have Alison Stewart, Nicole Siegel, David Raatz, and Rayna Yap. Give us a wave there, guys. And, also, we have the staff from Councilmember Sinenci's office, Mr. Don Atay and Dawn Lono. And of course, last but not least, my very hardworking staff, Mr. Gary Saldana and Stacy Takahashi. And hopefully I didn't miss anybody. Are we good Madam Chair? Oh, yes, yes, and yeah, I think I already announced that, but, Paia, this is happening tonight. This is like standing-room only. This is awesome. So, please, share your thoughts with us. We will be here as long as you are here. Thank you very much.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. It's like a sports announcer. It was very exciting, like hyping up the crowd. Okay. So we have a very full agenda. One item, EDB-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. And we'll begin with testimony, or we'll be accepting testimony. Testimony will be limited to EDB-1. To testify, please sign up with staff, there. Testimony is limited to three minutes, and upon request, one minute to conclude. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your name and who you're representing. Please also indicate if you are a paid lobbyist. And, okay, let's get started. Ms. Stewart, will you please call our first two testifiers?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. STEWART: Madam Chair, first to testify, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Haiku, we have Uilani Riggs, Leila Larson, Ashanti Moepono-Kealoha, Malik Bell, Janice Lambert, Makana Brittain, Nicole Bianchi Derosé, followed by Ms. Allaurah Bortoli.

MS. LARSON: Aloha. Can you hear me okay? Okay. Aloha, County Council. My name is Leila Kalani Larson. I am the Club Director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui at the Haiku clubhouse. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support for allowing the kids of Maui to have a safe place to go to after school. At Haiku clubhouse, we are currently serving 226 members and still with numbers rising. We have been running programs, such as Power Hour, which is an academic program that helps students with their homework after school; Girls Club, which is important, as it teaches the young teens about how to take care of themselves and that no two girls are alike and it's okay to be different, this helps with their self-esteem; Chess Club, which is one of the...a favorite right now, the members to learn focus, teaches them strategy and to learn patience; team sports, such as soccer, baseball, kickball, volleyball, basketball, flag football, and that's just to name a few--there's a lot more of physical activities that we do--it teaches them sportsmanship and teamwork; our arts and crafts program as well is really popular where they do canvas painting, little knits and crafts...arts and crafts; culinary class is another one, it's very exciting, the children learn how to cook their own meals, follow instructions, calculate measurements with the staff. The Maui Food Bank helps us with a lot of our snacks as well, so we can give snacks and food to children throughout the club through...every day. There's several more programs that we offer at our clubhouse. Thank you again for continuing to support, to fund the amazing programs for the Haiku Boys and Girls Club of Maui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll just take everyone's testimony; and if any of the Councilmembers have questions...is that okay, Members?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Yes.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. RIGGS: Hi. My name is Uilani Riggs. I attend the Haiku School, and every day after school I go to Haiku Boys and Girls Club. My favorite programs are Power Hour and Girls Club. Power Hour is my favorite program because I can catch up with my homework. Girls Club is my second favorite because I learn how to be more respectful with my friends. Thank you for supporting the Haiku Boys and Girls Club.

MS. MOEPONO-KEALOHA: Hi. My name is Ashanti Moepono-Kealoha. I attend Haiku School; and after school I got to Haiku Boys and Girls Club. My favorite activity at the clubhouse is basketball, because whenever I'm mad I play basketball. And my other favorite activity is Girls Club because it is very calming. Thank you for supporting the Haiku Boys and Girls Club.

MASTER BRITTAIN: Hi. My name is Makana Brittain. I attend the Haiku School. Every day after school I go to the Boys and Girls Club. My favorite program are Chess Club and Boys Club. I like Chess Club because it's a peaceful game and it teaches me to be patient. I like Boys Club because sometimes I just want to be away from girls. And I like computers and board games that the other staff do. Thank you for supporting Haiku Boys and Girls Club.

MR. BELL: Tough act to follow. Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Malik Bell. I'm the Education Director with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui. I'm also a parent of two children that in addition to participating in club activities, attend Maui public schools. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui while sharing my perspective on the impacts that your continued support has had on our ability to create opportunities for Maui's youth through our various programs. Over the course of the last year, the leadership of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui has placed a great deal of energy into focusing on progressively improving academic outcomes. We've sought to create community partnerships that directly benefit our members, such as afterschool mathematics and reading, tutoring for elementary school members; that's with Sylvan Learning Centers. We've initiated Bridge to Math, a conceptual and immersive mathematics program targeted intermediate school children in partnership with Kamehameha Schools and UH Maui College. We've taken a proactive role in introducing our high school aged teams to the financial rigors associated with adulthood by participating with...by partnering with Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union and the Financial Reality Foundation. In addition, we've successfully completed a pilot year of our Weinberg Leaders in Training Community Internship Program, giving teens the opportunity to have internships and learn more about the world of work. All this is to say that the benefit of your continued support gives us the means and stability we need in order to create targeted programming for youth that yields immense and immediate results for our membership. We appreciate the fidelity you've placed in us to care and deliver for the youth of Maui. Thank you.

MS. LAMBERT: Hi. I am Janice Lambert. This is Jayden Lambert. I just want to say, thank you to the Boys and Girls Club. I'm a single mom and I work really hard every single

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day, and it's just nice to know that my son can go from the school to the Boys and Girls Club and get all these capabilities at his fingertips. The reading, he's a big-time reader, and he likes that time before all the action happens to be able to sit down and read and catch up with his homework. And I just appreciate the Boys and Girls Club. And the staff, awesome. Thank you. I just...thank you to the Boys and Girls Club. So thank you.

MS. BIANCHI DEROSE: Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Nicole Bianchi Derosé. I am a mom, first of all. I have an eleven and an eight-year-old who both attend Haiku Elementary. I'm also a substitute teacher, primarily at Haiku as well as the Bridge to Math Facilitator at the Boys and Girls Club. I have found, speaking on behalf of the children, that the Boys and Girls Club is an invaluable resource to our community. Not only does it provide educational activities and mentorships but things, such as gardening. And for parents, it's just priceless to know that you have a place for your children while you're at work, wherever, that your children are looked after and cared for. So thank you, on behalf of Boys and Girls Club, for any and all funding that comes our way, it's put to great use. Thank you.

MR. MELGAR: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Franco Melgar. I was the Youth of the Year for the Haiku clubhouse last year. And, you know, the Boys and Girls Club is still a very important part of my life. I go there as much as I can, you know, it helps me, you know, deal with stuff that might be going on at home or, you know, things that are just going around in my regular life. And it helps me, you know, be able to express myself...oh, I'm sorry. Right on, thank you. I go to the Boys and Girls Club because I feel like it's a place for me that I can, you know, express myself through, you know, sports or whether it's in the computer room, you know, helping some kids with their homework, if I can. And it's just a really important part of my life because I've learned a lot through the staff members there; also, through the kids there as well. They've taught me a lot of things that I use in my life regularly. And yeah, you know, I'm just very grateful for the Boys and Girls Club. Thank you so much.

MS. BORTOLI: Hi. I'm Allaurah Bortoli. I'm here with the FAM program, the Farmers Apprentice Mentor...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: This is just for the Boys and Girls Club first and then I'll call the other one.

MS. BORTOLI: Oh, okay. Well, I had to leave...I have to leave early, I have to be at work at 7:00, so I wanted testimony early, if it's okay to talk about the FAM, I would like to talk about it, but...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are you going to also testify on the Boys and Girls...

MS. BORTOLI: I'm not.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm going to just check if the Members have questions –

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MS. BORTOLI: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --for anyone that testified on the Boys and Girls Club first and then you can go next.

MS. BORTOLI: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members do you have any questions for any of the eight testifiers on the Boys and Girls Club? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening and for coming. Thank you. Okay. Allaurah.

MS. STEWART: Madam Chair, next to testify is Allaurah Bortoli representing the Farm Apprentice Mentorships.

MS. BORTOLI: With this apprenticeship, I've learned so much. We've learned all the way from how to set up a farm, I had a goal this year to be at the farmers market the past two weeks. I've been able to bring my fruit and eggs and support the community with food, and that's what I would really like to see continue, and this program allows us to make the connections and learn where we can support the community; so thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any need for questions? Thank you so much, Ms. Bortoli, for your testimony. Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Next to testify is Caelia Pierner, Emmanuel Gonzalez, and Padma Jimenez followed by Liliana Yamashita.

MS. MCCARTHY: Aloha. My name is Kayla McCarthy. I graduated from King Kekaulike in 2018. I am now 19 years old. I did my senior project on firefighting at the Paia Youth and Cultural Center with my Maui Hero Project. In the program, I had the opportunity to interact with our local firefighters, cultural kapunas, medics, and outgoing leaders. I learned organization, leadership, hard work, and teamwork. After I graduated, I was able to come back and mentor for the Paia Youth and Cultural Center, Olowalu Summer Camp and also for the Maui Hero Project. Through the experience, the most I took in and learned is that everyone needs someone to guide and inspire. And through the staff at Paia Youth and Cultural Center and my amazing mentor, Loren Lapow, I'm able to consistently expand my knowledge and grow as a young adult. And through their assistance, they motivate me to prepare my resumes, to apply for jobs, academic scholarships, and connection to cultural community service activities. I am now going to explain Padma's experience through Maui Hero Project and the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. Through Maui Hero Project, I have learned so many important life skills as well as survival and disaster preparedness skills. Before MHP heroes, I felt I didn't work well in groups or stressful situations. I had a small group of close friends, I never truly felt confident meeting a group. Now my friends and family can tell you that I jump to leader-role positions. I can calmly take charge of stressful situations, and I have found a group of friends I always feel I can rely on. Heroes has opened up so many

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amazing opportunities to me from learning hands-on skills with amazing mentors to taking up new hobbies. And one day me and my team got the opportunity to fly kite surfing, training kites. I thought it was so fun and wonderful that soon after my surf program ended, I started taking kite-surfing lessons. I would not have never been open to the sport or even had a chance to test it out, before Heroes; that was Padma. Thank you, Padma. Next, I have Emmanuel. He is 15 years of age. I am currently home schooled. Without my mother forcing me to go, I would have never have left the house. I was really reluctant to go, but when I arrived, I was surprised on how much fun I was having. Without the PYCC, providing the materials needed for the Maui Hero Project, it wouldn't have happened. If I didn't go, I wouldn't have much of a social life. Thank you, Emmanuel. And lastly, I have Sachi. Thank you, Sachi. Before I met my team through Maui Hero Project, you could say I was a bit isolated from the rest of my peers. I had only one friend at the time, and it was always extremely socially awkward. When Loren came to speak to my transition class, I really wanted to experience all the things Loren was talking about and decided to join. Little did I know, it was going to be filled with hard work and most full amazing experiences. And through this program, I've met so many amazing people and made wonderful memories with my team who I now call my family. My family is made up of people who, at first, kind of seem like the last people I would connect with, but now that I know them, they help me step out of my shell and help me understand that even though I try to be independent, it's always nice to ask for help even when it seems unnecessary. Thank you, Sachi. And this is our lovely companions. And thank you for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Thank you. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening.

MS. MCCARTHY: Thank you so much.

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

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Liliana Yamashita, followed by Tenya [sic] Dominguez.

MS. YAMASHITA: Aloha, Maui County Councilmembers. I am Liliana Yamashita. I'm a 12-year-old seventh grader. I attend Kalama Intermediate, and I am here on behalf of MEO Youth Services Underage Drinking Prevention Program. I just want to thank you first of all. It's a really fun program. We have multiple opportunities and currently, right now, our staff and youth leaders are on Oahu doing a suicide prevention thing. And I hope one day I get an opportunity like that with your support and fundings. And we do a lot of fun stuff. We do a lot of beach clean ups, we do a lot of sign wavings. Recently, we did the something with the Mayor, flavored e-cigarettes and we're all dressed up in pink. Yuki Lei was there. She took pictures. It was lots of fun. I've been in the program for eight years now. Yeah, and thank you for your funding. Continue to fund the program. Any questions?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Members, any questions? Seeing none...oh, wait. We'll wait for the photo. Mahalo, Ms. Yamashita, for your testimony. Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Our next testifier is Tenya [sic] Dominguez, to be followed by Charlie Aran.

MS. DOMINGUEZ: Aloha. My name is Tehya Dominguez, and I've been attending Paia Youth and Cultural Center for about four years now. I love the Youth Center, because it gives me lots of opportunities to learn new things and learn lots of life skills. PYCC has always been a fun place, and we have always have opportunities to do fun things within a safe environment. PYCC staff has always been supportive for me and my friends. To me, PYCC is always a home away from home and will always be. Thank you, PYCC staff, for always having such a good vibe and always making me feel comfortable. Thank you for your support.

MS. AARON: Hi. My name is Charlie, and we go to PYCC every day. I'm with Lily and Caelia. I go, too. We love the kitchen. It's our personal favorite. We love baking so the kitchen is our perfect place for us. Just today we baked a mint chip cake. It was delicious. Ben is super kind and teaches us the science behind the baking. Anything—stop laughing—anything that we imagine as in a dessert or a dish, he will make sure it comes true. But we cannot do anything like this without your support, and we want to say, thank you for supporting the PYCC.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for your testimony, girls. Ms. Stewart, will you please call our next two testifiers? I'm sorry, just a quick announcement, Councilmember Riki Hokama sends his regrets. He had business on Oahu.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, meeting with the Senate President --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: More money for Maui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --to bring more money for Maui. Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. The next two testifiers please.

MS. STEWART: Madam Chair, I would just like to check if there were any other testifiers from PYCC. Yes? Okay. Our next testifier is Rohan Fahland, to be followed by Miki Preciechowski.

MASTER FAHLAND: Hi. My name is Rohan Fahland. I'm 12 years...I mean, 13 years old. And I'm currently in the seventh grade. And these are...we are...yeah, we are the members of the Malama Pono Project Venture program at the PYCC. Project Venture is a life-skills program that teaches us leadership and community service. In Project Venture, we get to do extreme sports like open-ocean stand-up paddling, surfing, and body boarding. In Project Venture, we get to go on field trips and explore the entire

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island. We also are very involved with the dune restoration project in Paia Bay. Please continue to support the PYCC and thank you for supporting already.

MASTER PRECIECHOWSKI: Hello. My name is Mikowai or Miki Preciechowski. Yeah, and right now I'm going to be talking about how much I love the skate park. The skate park is important to me because I skate every day. I also like the way it is designed. And another thing I like about it is that the skate park is really clean and fun. Thank you for supporting the PYCC and the skate park. Thanks, yeah.

MARLEY: Hello. My name is Marley. And PYCC is awesome because the activities and staff are amazing. I think you should keep funding this place because it is good for kids and a fun place for kids after school. It is good because you can do activities like surfing, bodyboarding, media, games, cooking, skating, Malama Pono Project, field trips, radio, you can play a game of pool against your friend or play ping pong. I think you should keep funding it 'cause it's very nice and good for kids and friends. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members? Okay. Seeing no questions, thank you so much, boys, for your testimony. Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Next to testify is Sebastian Bianchi, followed by Trey Lu.

MASTER BIANCHI: Hello. My name is Sebastian. PYCC is an amazing place with amazing staff. I also love how there's a beach and a skate park right next to it. You should keep PYCC open 'cause it's a great place for kids and family.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: Our next testifier is Trey Lu, followed by Francine Aarona.

MASTER LU: Hi. My name is Trey Lu. I'm a fifth-grade student at Kula Elementary School. Thank you so much for supporting Ho`oulu Na Kamali'i. I like this program because, one, I get to be with my friends; two, I get to learn about important life skills like CPR, farming, planting, and harvesting taro. Please continue funding for Ho`oulu Na Kamali'i. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony.

MS. LU: Good evening, Members. My name is Richelle Lu. I'm here testifying as an individual. I'm Trey's mom, and I'm here testifying in support of funding for Ho`oulu Na Kamali'i. My son is a participant in this afterschool and weekend program. It's a fledgling program. And through this program, he's been given many opportunities he would not otherwise have been exposed to. In just the past few weeks, he has done things like learn how to plant taro; planted trees; he's received CPR training; he has publicly rallied against bullying, three times; and he's currently working on an anti-child abuse campaign through the program. Additionally, he has enjoyed opportunities, such as swimming at Iao, swimming at our public beach parks as well as at the County pools.

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Auntie Leslie has also taken...is planning to take the children to the Taro Festival this weekend. Your investment in this program equates to an investment in our keiki, which will undoubtedly result in adults who contribute to our community. These children are learning through actions. They are learning social consciousness, environmental responsibility, and cultural awareness. They are learning through rewarding feelings of having accomplished something through hard work, meaningful change in terms of things like learning to grow their own food, learning to be responsible stewards of the land in terms of agricultural work and giving back to the community. Please continue to support this program. It is very worthwhile. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you for your testimony this evening. Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Next to testify is Leslie Latte [sic] on behalf of Ho`oulu Na Kamali`i...no?

MS. PALTIN: Lau Hee.

MS. STEWART: Lau Hee, excuse me.

MS. LAU HEE: Aloha. This is Leslie. I'm Leslie Lau Hee representing Ho`oulu Na Kamali`i. I'm the Project or Program Director. I just...I'm here to introduce myself to all of you, 'cause majority of you do not know me, and I really appreciate the funding that you've started me on, and I can just see our program just expanding. We are a small program. We are servicing the isolated communities. Right now I am in Kula. I have students from Kanaio. And prior to this group we were deep in Waihee, so we're all over the place; and with your continued funding, we can be even more. So mom said it all really, and you'll hear from us again. But I just wanted to introduce myself. And thank you, thank you, thank you for being here for us and supporting all of our youth programs, because we really need more of this going on, on our island; so mahalo. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Mahalo. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: Our next testifier is Francine Aaronson on behalf of the Paia Town Association followed by Noelani Sugata.

MS. AARONSON: Aloha, Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. AARONSON: My name is Francine Aaronson, also known as Auntie Mopsy. I'm here in support of the grant for small towns like Paia administered through the Office Economic Development. I am a board member of the Paia Town Association. I have worked with our contracted Executive Director, Noelani Sugata, since we hired her in 2015. I have seen her go above and beyond to make improvements to the town. When we first hired her, she worked with the community to paint a mural, figured out the logistics of our trash program, created a campaign for small business Saturday, and we kept her very

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busy with County Council this year. Fast forward to today, Noelani has created visibility online; and, if you check any of our social media platforms, you can see what is going on with the town. We have been featured in Alaska Airlines; *The Seattle Times*; and recently, the front page of *The Maui News* for Shop Small Maui. Recently, she has stated, it is hard to balance the needs of the community and the needs of the business district. Also, if you know her personality, like I do, her marketing business is growing. A lot of what our town needs is beyond what is in this grant. We need to replace our trash receptacles. And due to the increase of tourists coming into town, we need more beautification efforts and address safety issues. We also need the support of you, our Councilmembers, to facilitate the needed community meetings. Noelani has done her very best in facilitating meetings and being professional with the residents, merchants, landowners, and the greater community. She has gracefully dealt with controversial issues that are beyond her duties as assigned. I am aware of the new Administration and the process they're going through right now in regrouping. And I'm aware of Mr. Baz's efforts in having more facetime with the community. I am hopeful that this time of engagement will help the community understand the complexity of government and make them feel that they are valued in this Administration. I am also asking for a better communication system so that the community is aware of what is happening. For example, the sidewalk work on Hana Highway. We're all busy and I am reminded of projects would be nice. Mahalo so much for being here.

MS. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Aaron. Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Next to testify is Noelani Sugata, followed by Simon Russell.

MS. SUGATA: Mahalo, Aunty Mopsy, for coming with me tonight. Aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Councilmembers. My name is Noelani Sugata. And I am the contracted Executive Director for the Paia Town Association. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony. I am here in support of the Office of Economic Development, grants for small towns like Paia. Mahalo to Director Kay Fukumoto and her staff for their hard work during this new Administration. Today, I'm going to share briefly how we spend our grant. We use OED funds for beautification projects. We pay to have our trash receptacles emptied daily by Paia-born Roy Pico, purchase supplies when needed, and to pay the dumpster rental. Any additional funds left over goes towards graffiti removal, bulk trash runs, and other maintenance as needed. Having a clean community creates a good first impression for our visitors; therefore, increasing sales, and having curb appeal decreases the chances of attracting crime. We do partner with various groups who have events in the district. For example, we partnered with Tatiana Howard for the First Annual Maui Kite Fest, which included the butterfly effect, an all-women's non-competitive paddle out. The registration took place at Rock and Brews Paia and the launch site was Paia Bay. We sponsored the photographer and videographies; and, in return, got the content that we used for social-media marketing. Also, last summer, we partnered with Na Hoku Hanohano Award winner Anuheia Jenkins for her Aloha Always Foundation kickoff at Charley's, Paia. We sponsored a Facebook ad to advertise the event and attended her daytime concert.

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Anuheha was able to raise over \$4,000 and give away four scholarships for higher education. Finally, I want to share two examples of how I used digital marketing to promote economic development for Paia. After last Budget Session, several Paia merchants and myself were featured in the travel section of *The Seattle Times*. It was a colored insert, and one of their highlighted stories on their website. I had spent zero dollars targeting anyone in Seattle, let alone the travel editor of the newspaper. If we had paid for space, the starting price is around \$1,300 and goes up to \$5,000 for an ad like that. We were the writer's last story before he retired, and he found me by doing a simple search on Google. Clearly, I take our website and search optimization very seriously. In general, I value social media, and I do go all in on digital marketing. I did not print one thing in 2018; and, yet, Paia merchants landed in traditional media twice. That's what's in this packet. This past November, the merchants were on the front page of *The Maui News* for Small Business Saturday. Shop Small Maui is spearheaded by OED's Tokie Ogawa, and any small business can sign up for it. I created a lot of content for Small Business Saturday. My ad spend was \$100 for Facebook and \$150 for the ad in *The Maui News*, which has an approximate circulation of 13- to 15,000. Someone has to press these buttons, so that's where I come in. I've attached the outcomes of our market efforts. I do this for a living, so please feel free to use me as a resource in the future.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question for you, Ms. Sugata. Member Michael Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Aloha, Noelani.

MS. SUGATA: Hello.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Let me just first say that I feel it's so wonderful, great energy in this room, and love. So thank you so much, Paia, for coming out tonight. Noelani, you know, seeing that there's a nice mixture of the young and the young at heart, as part of the Merchants Association, have you folks done a lot of outreach with the youth organizations as well?

MS. SUGATA: Actually, my office is in the Paia Youth and Cultural Center; so they had an event called, Beach Fest. They have it every year. I think they've had it for, like, the past 20-something years, and I also sponsored that ad for them, so that's...and we do all kinds of stuff. Whatever events they have, like, I try to sponsor it.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MS. SUGATA: Alright, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Great. Well thank you for all you do, and also to Aunty Mopsy. Aloha.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Sugata. Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Our next testifier is Simon Russell, followed by Susun White.

MR. RUSSELL: Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Simon Russell. I just want to mahalo you all for your service. I'm here today in support of Head Start and, really, my children and our future. Head Start has been a real blessing to my family in that it's allowed my wife to work from home. We actually have two other children. She's at the pool right now at swim class with the eldest and the youngest. We have a six-year-old; a four-year-old--here's the four-year-old, Kekoa--and Lily, she's two; and then we have a newborn. So Head Start is really going to allow us to have that extra income every month from my wife being able to do that, you know, little extra at home when the kids are napping and in between, like that. So, you know, here's just a quick example of how Head Start helped this little guy, Kekoa. They just have really wonderful emotional support for young children. So Kekoa was a little upset when this one was born; and when he got into Head Start, they basically cured him through anger-management practices that they do. And I am just so thrilled, 'cause we were at our wits end, you know. And, Kekoa, do you want to say a word about Head Start? No? No, he doesn't. I was kind of coaching him on what to say when he got here, but he's a little shy. But, Lily, you want to say something; say, thank you? No? Anyway, thank you for your past support of Head Start and I hope that you continue to support it. One fact that maybe people don't know is, the Federal Government provides funding for Head Start through noon, and then the County provides funding afternoon, and currently they fund it through, I think it's, 1:45 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. And so if it had parity with DOE, that'd be a lot more convenient for parents where all kids get out of school at the same time. So a little extra funding would be really nice for us parents, so all the kids get out of school at the same time. But that's about all I have to say. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. We have a question for you from Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Hi, Simon, thanks for coming. Does that anger management work on adults, too?

MR. RUSSELL: It does. It's a fantastic method called, the calm-down area. So any time you feel your anger rising, you just go and be quiet...

VICE-CHAIR KING: I might have some referrals for you.

MR. RUSSELL: Yeah, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: But, no, I wanted to find out, what age the kids that Head Start...

MR. RUSSELL: It's age four and five.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. RUSSELL: Yeah. And then at six, depending on what month they're born in, they generally go into kindergarten.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. RUSSELL: Yeah, yeah, so.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So kind of between preschool and before kindergarten?

MR. RUSSELL: Correct, yeah. Yeah, it's really a wonderful program, and we're very fortunate to be a part of it.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you.

MR. RUSSELL: Thank you for your questions. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Russell, for your testimony. Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Madam Chair, next to testify is Susun White, on behalf of the Paia Youth Cultural Center, to be followed by David Daly.

MS. WHITE: My name is Susun White, and I'm the Director of the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. I really think that my talk is going to be quite redundant, because what I wanted to say most of the children have said before me. So, anyway, I'm still going to read it. I have been at the PYCC for the past 25-and-a-half years., and what an incredible journey it has been. A few of the faces on this Council had been part of this journey from the very beginning. Without the support of Maui County, it would not have been possible. It is extremely important that the Maui community acknowledges that without the County's long-term support in supporting youth centers, many of the youth centers would not be in existence today. We are the only County in the state of Hawaii that supports youth centers. I don't know if a lot of people know that. The PYCC has grown from serving the 26 original members to a membership today that averages annually a minimum of 425 youth from the ages of 9 to 18 years old. Many of these youth are children of alumni members. Daily, 75 to 80 youth participate at the PYCC. We do all of this on an operating budget of around 700,000 annually. This budget fluctuates depending on capital and building maintenance expenses. We employ seven full-time, college-educated staff and three part-time staff averaging 30 hours each a week, plus a number of contracted and youth intern workers. The present PYCC membership reflects the present diverse population that lives on Maui's North Shore and Upcountry areas. We serve the poorest of the poor--a number of our members are homeless--and families who are financially fluid. This extreme economic diversity is actually a beautiful thing as our members form lifelong bonds based on common interests. Our mission is, building community through our youth. The individual profiles of youth members are

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kept in confidence so when youth meet one another face to face, it is on equal grounds. It would be interesting if someday a PYCC alumni did a master's thesis on the lifelong bond established through PYCC membership and how these bonds continued to impact the general welfare of the community. It is due to this diverse membership base that the PYCC has been able to make \$100,000 annually from community donations. This is quite a feat for a small town and bears testimony to the overall success of the PYCC. It is important that the Maui County Council recognizes that the PYCC functions as more than a youth center. Our certified evidence-based, best-practice, life-skills program is acknowledged statewide; and includes a daily cooking class; multi-media education including music, video, and graphic arts productions; radio broadcasting--I mean, really, who else has their own radio station--weekly fitness challenges; basic recreation; art instruction; ocean and mauka ventures; youth leadership training; teenage certification; and the only skate park on Maui that has an adult monitor at all times. What many new people don't realize is that the PYCC works with Maui County community police to address the continual challenges from --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. White, will you please conclude your testimony? Thank you.

MS. WHITE: --okay--from the transient population that frequents and lives in the area, our main concern is to keep the area safe for our opio. We are the lead agency in the dune restoration from Paia Bay to Baldwin Beach. We also serve as the office space for the Executive Director of the Paia Town Association. And last, but the greatest, this coming year with the support of this administration, we will be embarking on a capital campaign to build a new youth center facility fronting our existing building.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. WHITE: Thank you for your continued support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question for you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Right on. Thank you for being here and everything that you do with the kids. It looks all real awesome. I just was...one of my questions was, if you guys train 'em in CPR, too?

MS. WHITE: Yes. Kids are trained, through the cert. training, they're trained in CPR.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, right on. Awesome. Thank you.

MS. WHITE: Yeah.

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

MS. STEWART: Our next testifier is David Daly on behalf of MEO, Inc., followed by Sesa Beard.

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MR. DALY: Good evening, Councilmembers, Council Chair. My name is David Daly, and I'm speaking on behalf of MEO, Maui Economic Opportunity's Business Development Center. I am the Program Director. MEO is a community action agency, has been on Maui since 1965. In its last fiscal year, it has served nearly 18,000 individuals and families and touched 54,000 lives. MEO administers over 40 programs under five departments; Business Development Center is one of those departments. Thank you so much for your continued support for BDC. BDC is a valuable resource for many of Maui entrepreneurs and small businesses. Being able to help individuals navigate the ins and outs of planning, starting, and running a successful business on Maui is difficult. BDC achieves this through its Core Four Business Planning classes, which graduates over 100 students every year, and has graduated over 1,200 since 2010. A large number of those graduates were able to take advantage of tuition assistance provided through the County funding. BDC one-on-one technical assistance also allows individuals to come and get help and guidance at any stage of their business development. BDC served last year 554 individuals. Lastly, our micro lending program, which is a big component of what we do, allows individuals who are unbankable to get financing at reasonable terms with technical support and guidance to start a new business or grow an existing business. Since 2010, our micro lending program has funded over 800...excuse me, 108 business on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai; forty-seven of those businesses are still in operation with 104 jobs being created or retained with those loans. BDC's ultimate goal is to help Maui County's small businesses thrive on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Maui County is second to none in the resources and support available for all businesses. I want to thank all of you for that. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions, mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Daly. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: Our next testifier is Sesa Beard on behalf of MEO, followed by Barry Rivers.

MS. BEARD: Hi. My name is Sesa Beard, and I'm here representing the MEO Business Development Center. I'm testifying for your continued support of the MEO Business Center...sorry, I've never done this before. In 2016, my husband and I decided to start our own business and we had no idea where to start, what to do or even how to do it. Talking with friends, they recommended MEO's Four [sic] Core Business Program. We found the information about MEO and we signed up. During the program at MEO, we learned a lot of information and tools on how to start our own small business. We both graduated the program and also qualified for a small business loan with MEO. It has been two years since we've started, and we are continuing to grow. We started from nothing and honestly really proud of where we've gotten. And in 2019, we're excited to be expanding our company. And with the help of MEO, my ohana wouldn't be where we're at today. So thank you for your time, your listening ear, and your support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Beard. Ms. Stewart?

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MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Barry Rivers on behalf of Maui Film Festival to be followed by Richard Lucas.

MR. RIVERS: Aloha and thank you. Before I forget, I want to just thank you all for 20 years of support. We started in 2000, and the Council was there with us from the very first; and you're here again still, and that means a lot. And that not everyone has the luxury of having...yeah, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Sorry, Barry.

MR. RIVERS: It's okay. Anyway, just sincerely though, thank you so much. Some of you for the second time, Alice, hello. Okay. So here we go. So 20 years ago I had a fever dream and decided to create a passionately created endlessly—let me try this again—passionately created, intelligently designed, endlessly inspiring, under the stars, lit by the moon, and literally powered by the sun film festival. And we're celebrating our 20th year this year. It's an event that's known all over the world and it's just held in high regard. People think of us as a jewel-box festival, which I love. And so they small...a festival small enough to, you know, present meaningful work but also not so big that people lose themselves, but rather get to meet other people and have time to connect with the island and its people. We have 200-plus volunteers and 100 staff that work with us to make this thing happen every year. It's certainly not just me, and couldn't do without them, many of whom have worked with us since year one, year two, year three. So we have a long standing institutional memory which helps, I think, make the festival what it is for people. I want to also just take note quickly of the fact that in the last eight years—I just did this math recently—we've generated, on average, over a billion medium presses a year around the world, primarily in the United States but also significantly so in other places around the world as well. And we've generated, with those medium presses alone, aside from the people that visit and spend money and contribute to the hotel tax and so forth, we've averaged slightly over \$8 million every year of media value. We also track thousands of people from all over the Mainland who come to experience Maui's hospitality firsthand and truly get to understand what this place is about in a way that you can't get from books and tourist pictures, basically. They really get to meet people. As we approach 2020, I do want to end my testimony as I never have before. I want to end by asking you, the Council, to consider increasing the support of the County of Maui's financial support of the Festival. The challenges of the last number of years this sort of tsunami of digital entertainment: Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, you know, all the usual suspects, have made it impossible for many festivals to even continue. I'm crazy enough to have kept this one alive, but we're at the point now...I really wanted to do the 20th. And we are planning the next couple, and it would really be helpful to have some support, because this is not a good way to...it's not a way to make money, it's way to change culture; that's really what it's about for me. I use cinema as activism, and the films we show, the topics they address, are really meant to elevate the dialogue of the conversations on Maui and of the planet at large. We have a lot of people from the Mainland who are influences in their community who stay in these very chi-chi places over in Wailea. I mean I'm a Paia guy. I've lived here for 40 years. But, you know, they pull the world around whether we like it or not and it's helpful to

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open their coconuts a little bit to what's going on in the world, and that's very much what we do. I want to just...let's see, where are we. I've never read my testimony here before, this is so weird. We're about, I do want to make this point, we're about...the Festival is about—if I could only read my own writing—I'm about building face-to-face community, not Facebook-to-Facebook community, that's what the Festival's all about, it's to commune with the community, you get to know who your neighbors are, to meet new people, to show them the beauty of Maui's people, and to just sort of expand their awareness of what this place truly is, which is not some tourist junket. Thank you so much, take care.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your...oh, I'm sorry. We have a question for you. Chair King?

MR. RIVERS: Yes?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you. Sorry about the phone going off.

MR. RIVERS: Sure, no problem.

VICE-CHAIR KING: I was going to remind you to tell people your organization, but I think everybody knows it's the Film Festival.

MR. RIVERS: Oh, Maui Film Festival, sorry. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, you know, it's been very disturbing when I see your e-mails that you finally decided to do it. And every year I know you go through this. So what level of funding...I mean it's a...to me, it's a really small level that we're giving you right now, and if we doubled it to 50 or 60 thousand, would that give you that comfort level to be able to do this –

MR. RIVERS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --without, like, having to agonize over whether it's going to happen every year?

MR. RIVERS: Yes. It's been really, really challenging to keep it alive. Like I said, if I was a smarter guy and more driven by financial gain, I would have let this go a long time ago. But it's not how I'm wired, it's not what's important to me so I've kept it going. I mean I was just sitting there thinking about this 'cause I knew I was going to read this paragraph and my thought was, we get 70,000 and a lot more in in-kind, lots of hotel-room nights, which we used to bring in press and filmmakers and so forth, and they help us throw parties, they're really kind and wonderful to us and have been for a very long time. They give us 70,000 in cash. The HTA gives us 70,000 cash. And to the extent that this is at least as much benefit to Maui, granted we have a smaller population base from which to sort of gather additional wherewithal. You know, it would be nice if there was parity between all three things. I mean that's the honest answer.

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Anything beyond what we get would be appreciated, and I just wanted to make that point clear, because it really is...it's a different century, literally, when we started this thing. All this stuff that we're now challenged by just wasn't here when we first started and it's made it a lot harder. A lot of festivals have gone out of business, I mean including one in L.A. People may know the Independent Spirit Awards, that's the event the day before the Oscars, it's very highly regarded. They had a film festival for 17 years and they folded it, they just couldn't make it work. It's a hard thing to do.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I guess I'm glad you're not that smart, so you keep doing it.

MR. RIVERS: Sorry, we have another question for you. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

MR. RIVERS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Hi, Barry.

MR. RIVERS: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you for being here tonight. Okay, I'm getting some reverb over here. Oh, move closer to Shane. So my question is, I'm looking and I'm struggling with another economic engine that we need here besides tourism, and one of the other things I was looking at was the film industry. So how would the film, if we did somehow get the film industry to come more...or would have more favorable look towards Hawaii or Maui, how would that impact the Film Festival?

MR. RIVERS: Well, you know, we've actually—is this on?—we've done a lot of that already. We've had a really good relationship for a long time under several film commissioners. You know, they've brought people out, I mean as recently as...well, I know in the last couple of years Tracy's brought people out, Tracy Bennett, who I guess has been rehired as the new Film Commissioner again under Mayor Victorino. So we do a lot of that kind of stuff. You know, we bring in lots of people from the industry. We show them around the island. Donne Dawson, who's the State Film Commissioner, supports us in that way as well. So we work really close...we understand that...we're probably, in ways, the most high-profile film industry related thing that takes place on the island. And we're held in really high regard. I just had...oh shit, I won't name who it is, but just the other day one of the GMs in Wailea said, you know, what you do here is the envy of all of the people that I work with. No one has anything like this thing. You know, not to disparage food and wine events, we have them as part of our event as well, but this film thing pulls the culture around in a unique way and we've really set the bar really high with all the people we've honored over the years. People can go to the website and see the list. So, you know, we're totally into using some of the funds that we would have to help make that even a bigger thing than it's...it would be really smart in fact. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

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MR. RIVERS: Sure. Anyone else? Sorry, I didn't mean to walk away from any more questions. That's it?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

MR. RIVERS: Okay. Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had a question. Thanks for being here tonight --

MR. RIVERS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --and thanks for all you do. I just was wondering, like, you bring in a lot of visitors on this film festival and I was wondering if you ever approached the Maui Visitors Bureau for funding.

MR. RIVERS: We can't because we get funding from the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and I think there's...isn't there a term that they use, double dipping or something? I think it would be double dipping to do it; that's what I've been told.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

MR. RIVERS: No? We could approach the Maui Visitors Bureau in addition to...or I guess we can't...can we get money from the MVB and Maui County, like from the Council?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Some people do, yeah, I think. The First Fridays get...

MR. RIVERS: Wherever, whatever, as long as it's not stolen, we'll take it. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. No more questions this time. Ms. Stewart.

MS. STEWART: Madam Chair, the next testifier is Richard Lucas on behalf of Friends of Old Maui High, followed by Kathy McDuff.

MR. LUCAS: Maui County Councilmembers, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MR. LUCAS: I'm back to talk to you again. I had a chance to talk to you in Pukalani and I forgot to tell you about May 4th; so I had to come back and talk to you about that. So don't let me forget to tell you about May 4th before I finish. So over the weekend I was talking to somebody and the topic of Old Maui High came up, and he said, oh, you're the guys who mow the lawn up at the campus. And I thought, I got to do a better job of letting the community know what we do because we mow the lawn, but then we do so much else. And apparently, that message hasn't gotten around to everybody, and I want

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everybody to know about it. In addition to mowing the lawn, we take care of all the exceptional trees on the campus. We do the trimming and care of those trees under the supervision of certified arborists. We take care of all of the buildings there. And one of the big challenges is just maintaining the roofs on those buildings so that we don't get water damage inside. And we're proud of the fact that we've been able to keep those buildings in the interior in the same condition that they were in 15 years ago when we went up to the campus. One of the things that we've done during the time that we've been there is we've commissioned and completed studies. We have all of these different studies: Phase I and Phase II Environmental Study on the campus. We did campus-wide soil testing which resulted in the discovery and removal of a buried diesel fuel tank on the campus and also the removal of asbestos tile out of the administration building. We've done a stabilization plan for the administration building, we've done construction drawings for the rebuilding of the roof on the administration building and actually, at one point, submitted and got a building permit, but funding wasn't available at the time. We've done an infrastructure plan for the entire campus and we've done a comprehensive master plan for the reuse and revitalization of the H'poko campus. So 1,500 pages plus of professional studies, which will allow us to move forward with the reuse of that facility for the benefit of the entire community. Three years ago, Friends spent \$15,000 of its own funds to rebuild the covered walkway that extends between the classroom buildings because it couldn't wait any longer, and we didn't want to lose that. Part of our goal is to keep that campus ready for it to be reused. We provide around-the-clock security so we can prevent graffiti and vandalism of the buildings on the campus. We maintain and offer access to an extensive archive collection, which covers not only the history of Old Maui High School but also the history of the H'poko area, and that's available to the public. We welcome visitors from the Mainland, actually from around the world who have learned about Old Maui High School by going on the Internet—of course, where else, right?—and they come, they look around the campus, they go through our archives, gives us an opportunity to tell them about this place, this community, and this school. We coordinate and supervise events that occur at the campus. and we act as kind of the contact point for the alumni for the school. In fact, it was just last week I received a call from the 1970 graduating class. They want to have their 50th reunion at the school next year. So we're making arrangements for that as well. May 4th, let me do this very quickly. May 4th is our annual community day of service. We invite members of the community, everybody here is invited, to come up to Old Maui High to spend the day there. And while you're there taking in the beautiful vistas and looking at the campus, we also ask you to help us pull some weeds, trim some bushes, do a little painting, gain some ownership in this campus, which is really a community treasure. So please come and join us if you have the opportunity. Thank you so much.

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

MR. LUCAS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: May 4th.

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MR. LUCAS: May 4th.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it.

MR. LUCAS: 9:00 a.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 9:00 a.m. Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Madam Chair, the next testifier is Kathy McDuff on behalf of Friends of Old Maui High, followed by Craig Mojonnier.

MS. McDUFF: Aloha, Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. McDUFF: I have been on the Board for Friends of Old Maui High for almost 15 years. We started this organization following the fires at the Charles Dickey Administration Building to help preserve and maintain this important historical campus and we would like to thank you for your continued support and this endeavor. This beautiful campus has been prevalent in the history of Maui as a diversified multiculture. Many of those present today either attended Old Maui High School or their parents or grandparents did. Some of my favorite moments are talking with people who have come up to see the school that meant so much to their parents or to talk to alumni who have traveled hundreds of miles to revisit the school to walk through the corridors and to go through the archives that we have preserved with your help. When you are in these 100-year-old buildings, you can feel the presence of those who went to school there. Some of the alumni of the first co-ed high school on Maui went on to become important leaders in all walks of life from congresswomen to world-renowned athletes, from historic pineapple and plantation workers to the leaders of Hawaii today. This is all an important part of the history Maui that you are helping us to preserve and maintain through your continued support. This beautiful 23-acre campus would have deteriorated without the partnership of Friends of Old Maui High School and the County of Maui. Our organization came together as volunteers almost 15 years ago because we knew this important landmark was worthy of being preserved. And through your continued support, Old Maui High School has become an important icon in the history of this beautiful island. We've been able to preserve this beautiful campus so that future generations can come to experience the history of this unique landmark. Many of today's graduates across the island come up to the campus to have their photos taken on the steps of the administration building. Couples ask to be married on the campus because it is such a beautiful setting. They all know how important this place is to the history of Maui. Thank you so much for your continued support of both our organization and the hundreds of volunteer hours behind it and of this important piece of Maui history. We could not do it without you. Thank you so much.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question for you. We have a question.

MS. McDUFF: Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Kathy, is the Old Maui High School on the Historic Sites Register?

MS. McDUFF: It is, and we have it on the National one, and we're trying to get it on the State one as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Mahalo for your testimony. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Craig Mojonnier, followed by Phyllis Robinson.

MR. MOJONNIER: Good evening, Councilmembers, my name is Craig Mojonnier. I'm a resident of the State of Hawaii for 31 years, 21 here on Maui, and I'm raising a 12-year-old; and I'm here to advocate for continued funding for both PYCC and Boys and Girls Club, which are two amazing organizations that are really committed to molding the youth of our community to be better people and outstanding people. So I feel fortunate to have these two options for afterschool care. I raise a 12-year-old who's very dear to me and there's very few places I feel safe for him, and these two venues really do commit to being unique spots for our children. Paia Youth and Cultural Center, I can't say enough about it. The location is unparalleled by anywhere else I've ever been on the planet. They have a ocean, the skatepark, they have radio, media lab, the kitchen, the staff down there is just...I can't say enough about any of them. They're just all great, as well as Leila and Auntie Joy up at Boys and Girls Club. And we are fortunate to be able to live in a place like Maui where we have people like Mr. Daly and MEO and Barry Rivers who are really generally concerned with just creating a unique place for all of us to enjoy. And so, like I said, I'm just here to advocate for...and thank you for the funding you give to these events. All of them are merit...great, great success. So, once again, thanks again for your time and enjoy the evening.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony this evening. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Phyllis Robinson on behalf of Hawaii Farmers Union United, to be followed by Beth Savitt.

MS. ROBINSON: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

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MS. ROBINSON: Nice to see you all again. I hope we don't go as long as we did in Kihei. It was pretty long, so I really appreciate the time and patience that you show us in the community for truly listening to us, it means a tremendous amount. I know it means a tremendous amount to me, so I just wanted to thank you for that and your beautiful smile, Chair. So I'm speaking tonight on behalf of the Hawaii Farmers Union United and its foundation. So you know me as the Program Director of the FAM Program. FAM is actually a program of all four Maui Chapters and of the foundation. So I just wanted to clarify that in case anyone had a question. I had the privilege of being a member of the Hawaii Farmers Union for seven years. And I was the chapter president when we were just one Maui chapter, and Kelly knows that. We were called, the Maui Farmers Union United. Well, we've grown. In fact, we've grown exponentially. We now have 13 chapters statewide, and we have 1,571 members statewide. A thousand of those are here on Maui, which is quite amazing, yes. So we have to grow other parts of the state; but, on Maui, no ka oi. So I was part of the Haleakala Chapter. As you all know, we meet monthly, all the chapters meet monthly. And we meet at the Kalama Middle School now, which is very exciting because the Kalama Middle School ag teacher came and presented this beautiful slide show of the young middle school farmers. I had never seen so much joy on the faces of middle schoolers as they had putting dry land kalo in the ground. It was tear jerking to see them. They were full of joy. So I'm really excited to see that we're growing farmers from the ground up, it means a lot. So there are now three chapters of the Farmers Union: one in Lahaina, I imagine you heard from some of those folks yesterday; there's one in the central valley called, Mauna Kahalawai, and that meets at the Tropical Plantation; and then there's also one in Hana. The Hawaii Farmers Union United has much to offer to our FAM Program and also to our farming community. Every single FAM apprentice has been given free membership this year thanks to the Haleakala Chapter. Monthly chapter meetings are a networking goldmine for our apprentices to say nothing of the amazing Localvore Potlucks, which I imagine some of you have had the chance to experience. So I understand that the four chapters are asking for County funds. They're using that to set up small farmers markets and to have speakers. So I really hope that you will support the Hawaii Farmers Union United and its foundation. And I know that you'll also be hearing about our convention, which I don't have time to talk about, but I would like to know that you also will support that. Thank you very much.

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

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

MS. ROBINSON: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR KING: We were just discussing the agricultural program in the budget today, so we're going to revisit that the week of the 22nd.

MS. ROBINSON: Great.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: I just wanted to ask if you would be there for a...to be a resource because the funding that's in the Mayor's Budget is actually below what you were asking for just for the FAM Program. So I think we need some support; so, you know, if we have questions in the program.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes. Was that a question? I didn't...

VICE-CHAIR KING: I just wanted to know if you could be available that week of the 22nd. I'm not sure if the Chair...

MS. ROBINSON: Oh, of course, yes. I would absolutely do that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks for coming out again.

MS. ROBINSON: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Hope you have a raincoat.

MS. ROBINSON: Oh, is it raining? I left it in the car.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have one more question.

MS. ROBINSON: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

MS. ROBINSON: Yes, hi.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thanks, Phyllis, for being here. Are you working with, also, Mr. Mina?

MS. ROBINSON: Yes. Vincent Mina is the President of both the foundation and he's also the President of HFUU statewide.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes. And so he's my boss.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay, thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Sure.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then one more question.

MS. ROBINSON: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We discussed earlier, so the funding that you're requesting, is solely for the four chapters on Maui?

MS. ROBINSON: Yes, it's only for the four chapters on Maui, that's correct, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification. And then one more.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So you spoke about the expansion to Molokai and Lanai.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you know if the five interested...or the...there are still interest on both islands?

MS. ROBINSON: We don't know for sure, because we didn't revisit Molokai. I have heard through the woman who's the Editor of the Lanai Times [*sic*—I think all of you know her—she actually approached me and said, why isn't there a FAM Program on Lanai? We could really use that. And it inspired me to explore that as a possible part of our program. So, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Thank you so much.

MS. ROBINSON: Sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any other questions? Okay.

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for coming again tonight.

MS. ROBINSON: Good night.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Beth Savitt, to be followed by Billy Jalbert.

MS. SAVITT: Hello, Councilmembers, and thank you, thank you, thank you for coming out and taking your time and taking tonight and all these nights to listen to your community. Tonight I want to speak in support of the FAM Program. I've been following Phyllis and helping her with some grant writing and seeing what's going on, and she

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truly is growing farmers. Our Governor has asked for our food...sustainability to become a focus of the next five years to ten years, how is that going to happen? And four years ago, we noticed that the average age of a farmer on Maui was 60 years old. And singlehandedly, Phyllis went from a little FAM Program of seven people to now 37 farmers. She herself is reducing the age of farmers. She is fulfilling this. She is an amazing force. And this program is exceptional, in that it connects people with mentors. There's 30 mentors now. People with an opportunity to share with the community. And this is what makes a community. We grow a community, we grow farmers, and we grow food. So I'm in support of that. And by the way, she was going to mention something about the HFUU conventions and getting funding for that. I'd like to say, I went this year, I participated, an experience I hope all of you get to have. So the last thing I wanted to speak about is just as...Beth Savitt, I'm a community clinical psychologist. I was a principal of a school with children from pre-K through eight grade. I worked in mental health centers, I worked in hospitals, I had a private practice, but I ended up going into education, 'cause I got tired of treating mental illness and wanted to create mental health. And what you saw tonight with these children up here, that is the beginning of mental health for our community. All these programs do more for families than we even realize in the long run. It's called resiliency. We build resilient children, they can handle the stresses of life. They have the skills to speak to adults and ask for help when they need help. They know how to monitor their own feelings, their own emotions. Their emotional intelligence increases in these programs. Now it's very hard when you say, well, why would we have a dance program or a cooking program or a radio program, we need a drug education and treatment program for the 18-year-olds. That's when the carotid artery has burst and you're trying to hold it with your thumb. That is tertiary prevention. In my book, I don't even want the word prevention near it, it was just in my college textbook. Primary is when we see a father with his children talking about how much easier his life is because of Head Start. Children saying they get time away from social media, they're in the sand, they're on a radio, they're talking in real life and real time; and that's something we must be concerned about. The rate of suicide and drug use is rising here on Maui, something we don't talk about. Let's start primary measures, primary prevention. Yes, the tertiary will always get money, they're always very very attractive to donors, and sometimes the smaller programs aren't. So I ask our Council to please give generously to those primary prevention programs. Thank you, thank you. And, again, thank you for hearing us all out tonight.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Savitt. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Billy Jalbert on behalf of Paia Youth and Cultural Center, to be followed by Frances Duberstein.

MR. JALBERT: Aloha, County Councilmembers. My name is Billy Jalbert. I am a Paia resident, a Paia businessman, and I am also the President of the Board of the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. I've been a board member for 17 years. I'm here to welcome the new Councilmembers and also to thank the existing Councilmembers for your years of support. As you've seen from all of the previous testimony about PYCC, it's a pretty special place. Our mission is to build community through youth, and I think you saw

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that in action tonight. We serve over 400 youth members between the ages of 9 and 19. Some of our members are homeless. So Beth mentioned, why would we want to have a kitchen? Well, part of the purpose of our kitchen is to teach healthy cooking habits and healthy eating habits, but it also happens to feed members of our community who are the most in need. I can't tell you how amazing Susun White, our Executive Director, and the rest of staff are. Their dedication, their love, and their support of our members is unparalleled; and, again, it was demonstrated tonight. We had been recognized by the State of Hawaii and by the Hawaii Community Foundation as one of the most efficient and effective youth centers and not-for-profits in the entire state. And, quite frankly, we couldn't do it without your funding or your support. We are not just a youth center, though. We have supported the greater community of Maui for all of our years of existence as well. Those beautiful dunes that you see along Paia Bay, that whole effort was spearheaded by the youth and by the staff of PYCC. The work with the Maui Police Department and with the Parks Department to beautify the Paia Bay Beach and that surrounding area and make it safer for all of our residents has been a major, major push for both staff members, alumni, and board members like myself. We have worked, also, very closely with the Paia Town Association, as Noelani mentioned earlier. And she is an absolute treasure for the entire community.

MS. SUGATA (*from the gallery*): Oh, mahalo.

MR. JALBERT: Our programs are evidence-based, best-practices, life-skills programs. You wouldn't guess that by those kids that were here earlier giggling and talking about how fun it is. Part of the genius of our programs is that we trick our kids into having amazing life skills, and that is the future of our community. I'm proud of our frugality and our effectiveness as a youth center, but I'm also here to ask you to continue your funding. The Malama Pono Project Venture Program is extremely important to us, the Underage Drinking Prevention is extremely important to us, as are the rest of our programs. We're here to ask you not for more money, but the same amount of support as we had for last year. And, again, that is in testament to our frugality. I thank you all for being here; for caring so much about our community and for our youth; and your past, present, and future support. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have one question. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Billy, for being here. Who's Pete Jalbert?

MR. JALBERT: That's my brother.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. I know Pete.

MR. JALBERT: I know.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So we always pass Paia on the way home to Hana, and Paia is a very busy place. And so to see that the community has balanced, you know, raising

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your children right in a very commercial and tourist area and seeing all of you tonight, I just wanted to say, or ask, how you guys been able to balance, you know, just, you know, the added people in Paia.

MR. JALBERT: It's a good question. And it's a tough balance. The traffic has gotten really bad as we've all seen. We could use a bypass, but I would say that as the pressures, the social pressures and the tourism pressures and other things, have pushed on the community, Paia Youth and Cultural Center has served as a safe space for our youth. And it's really been a refuge for them in many ways. And if you look at the way the members were here tonight, it's really an ohana. And I think that our dedication as a team for all of our members and treating them like ohana and giving them a safe space has been a really, really big part of it. And hopefully we'll continue to do that for many, many years. As Susun mentioned earlier, our building is almost 100 years old, and we are busting at the seams. And we're one big wave event from not having a youth center for over 400 youth. So a big part of our plan over the next couple of years is going to be to do a capital raise to build a new youth center just a little bit mauka of where we are so that we can continue for another 30, 50, or 100 years. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. We have another question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh feedback. Aloha, Billy. Thanks for your leadership on the board as well as Susun as the Executive Director. And you know what, your kids here tonight, I was really impressed with their behavior. I guess that must be your pressing that...some good social skills on them. That was really impressive. And I guess the staffing there. Has there been a lot of turnover with staffing? It sounds like the staff is pretty stable.

MR. JALBERT: Our staff, I can't even say enough about them, I never could. They are ridiculously underpaid, quite frankly, and they are incredibly devoted. And we have had very, very little turnover. We have staff members that have been there almost as long as Susun has. And I think that is really one of the key ingredients to our success. And the fact that they want to stick around and keep developing our youth, it's a gift to Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Great. Well, keep up the awesome work. Aloha.

MR. JALBERT: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, we're going to take two more testifiers and then break. Ms. Stewart, will you please call our next testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Madam Chair, the next testifier is Frances Duberstein on behalf of Maui Youth and Family Services, to be followed by Lisa Sworeland [sic].

MS. DUBERSTEIN: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

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MS. DUBERSTEIN: My name is...thank you all so much for being here tonight. I'm listening to what we have to say. My name is Frances Duberstein, and I'm here to voice my support for \$200,000 in capital improvement funds in this next budget for Maui nonprofit, Maui Youth and Family Services, for our new coordinated programs facility. MYFS's mission is to empower youth and families challenged with behavioral health issues to become responsible, self-fulfilled, and contributing members of the community. We're the only provider of outpatient, adolescent, substance-abuse treatment. We have services for youth who...the age out of foster care. We have a project venture program as well. It's a wide variety of services for vulnerable youth. So this new coordinated programs facility will serve as a central hub for trainings, meetings, supply distribution, and management of programs run by MYFS and its non-profit partner agencies Aloha House--...*(clears throat)*...--excuse me, Aloha House and Malama Na Makua A Keiki; and it will also have room for future expanded services. Through these three non-profits - MYFS, Aloha House, Malama Na Makua A Keiki, we're able to provide comprehensive substance-abuse treatment programs and mental health services for youth and adults through a holistic approach to recovery. The need for substance abuse and mental health programs continues to grow in Maui County and we serve all three islands in our county. Last year, our three agencies combined to serve more than 6,000 people: youth, men, and women. And this was a 22 percent increase from the year before. We are currently in a facility that's more than 80 years old in Makawao that cannot be renovated because of structural issues. We tried but it can't. The only effective and efficient approach to facility improvement is demolition of the current building and construction of a new and expanded facility. This will eliminate immediate, extensive repair expenses, reduce long-term maintenance cost and most importantly, enable us to continue meeting Maui County's need for substance abuse and other behavioral health-treatment programs. The total cost of the new building is approximately 2.7 million, and we've raised 1.3 million to date. We've secured funding from the State Legislature and then also from the County in a previous year as well as the Atherton Family Foundation, the Central Pacific Bank Foundation, the First Hawaiian Bank Foundation, and the Hawaiian Electric Industry's Charitable Foundation. We're also applying for funding from the McNerney Foundation, Kosasa Family Fund, the Arlene and Michael Rosen Foundation, Bank of Hawaii, and of course the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation. And so 200,000 in capital improvement funds in the Fiscal Year 2020 Maui County Budget will make a huge difference in our ability to get to the point where then we can go to Weinberg and say, we've raised the amount that we need to meet your requirements to get the rest of the funds. So that's why I'm here tonight. And just thank you for your continued support for the most vulnerable in our community.

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Hi, Frances?

MS. DUBERSTEIN: Hi.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Hi, Frances, thanks for coming out. Thanks for everything you do for those three organizations. So 200,000 from the County is going to help you leverage how much from Weinberg?

MS. DUBERSTEIN: We're hoping to get approximately a third of the cost from them. So about eight hundred, nine hundred thousand.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So they want to see the County and State participate...

MS. DUBERSTEIN: Yeah, they want to see that we're...yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Did you have to put...are you going to call it the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg...

MS. DUBERSTEIN: I don't know if they've specified that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh.

MS. DUBERSTEIN: But, you know, if they want that, of course we will, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: That's right, okay. Thank you. Good luck.

MS. DUBERSTEIN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. I didn't...I may have missed it, but did you mention the Hawaii Community Foundation and/or the HMSA Foundation?

MS. DUBERSTEIN: So the Atherton Family Foundation through Hawaii Community Foundation, we have received funds from. And HMSA Foundation, I'm not sure if we are planning to go to them. We do have a great relationship with them and their Executive Director, but I'm not sure if that is one of our targets at this point, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, no. I just was inquiring, 'cause if you're going to ask, ask everybody.

MS. DUBERSTEIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

MS. DUBERSTEIN: Yeah, yeah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Any more questions? Seeing none, thank you so much, Ms. Duberstein, for your testimony.

MS. DUBERSTEIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Lisa Sworeland [sic] of Malama Na Makua A Keiki –

MS. SWOVELAND: Aloha.

MS. STEWART: --and the testifier after the break would be Lehn Huff.

MS. SWOVELAND: Aloha, Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. SWOVELAND: . . . *(Coughed)*. . . Excuse me. Lisa Swoveland. My name is Lisa, and I'm here to support continued funding for non-profit, Malama Na Makua A Keiki's substance abuse treatment program for women through the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. It is an honor to share my story on behalf of Malama. I am a grateful, recovering addict with more than 58 months clean. I was born on Maui-- . . . *(audience applause)*. . . thank you—and raised on Molokai from kindergarten through high school. I am the youngest of six children, and my first encounter with any mind-altering substance was baby Millers. I would drink with my father, a sip here, a sip there; and I would go into the refrigerator and open a beer for myself at age five or six. By 14, I was smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day, drinking every weekend, and doing other drugs. My life became a big blur. I entered treatment in 2004. I found myself reflecting on where I was and why I wanted to be in recovery. Being in an all-female facility helped me concentrate on discovering who I really was. I successfully graduated from Malama in August 2004. I stayed clean for seven years and three months through the Sober Support Network I found through Malama and the NA community. What took me out, complacency, the attitude that I got this, I have control over my addiction and leaning on my own understanding. I was wrong. I was lost for approximately three years. Fortunately, I made it to jail in February 2014. There aren't many options when you wake up in a cell with absolutely no control over your life. In hindsight, it was a pivotal point in my life where I had to make a decision. I had two options: to look within or look outside of myself. I chose to look within and I immediately got on my knees and prayed. What did I fall back on? The skills I learned at Malama. Every support group that came into jail I signed up for whether I wanted to or not. This realization got me back on the list and into Malama in October 2014. It's hard to put into words how much of a blessing it was knowing that Malama was there for me no matter what. During those three years where I relapsed, I missed once-in-a-lifetime events with my ohana and my nieces and nephews, which I regret the most. Because I am clean and sober now, I get to see and be 100 percent present for their graduations, birthday

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parties, May Day performances, and just be there for them. I want to do everything in my power to make sure my family never goes through what I did. I completed treatment in March 2015. While at Malama this time, I created a vision board, and one of my goals was eventually get a job there. I knew I could give back and understand where the clients were coming from and what kind of support they needed. I'm proud to say that after more than two years of sustained sobriety, I started working at Malama as a program assistant in April 2016. I am there in case the women or their children need anything or even just someone to talk to. I drive them to and from treatment, doctor appointments, AA/NA meetings, job interviews, playtime at the park or beach, et cetera. I went back to school last year and I will get my associate's degree by next spring. I plan to get a bachelor's degree in psychology and then a master's and a doctorate, and eventually become a licensed family and marriage therapist and a certified substance-abuse counselor. Without Malama, none of this would be possible. The only way I know to live now is to give back and make a difference every day of my life. Thank you for your unconditional support of women like me. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions, mahalo for your...no questions. Mahalo for your testimony and your courage. Okay. Ms. Stewart, will you please announce how many more testifiers we have? Thirty-five.

MS. STEWART: We have 35 more testifiers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Okay, Members. Ms. Stewart, will you please announce the two testifiers that will be up when we return from our break?

MS. STEWART: The two testifiers will be Lehn Huff, followed by John Dobovan.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members, we're going to take a ten-minute break. It's 7:40. Please be back in your seats by 7:50. The Economic Development and Budget Committee is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 7:40 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:55 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please return to order? It is 7:55 on April 11th. Ms. Stewart, will you please call our first two testifiers?

MS. STEWART: Madam Chair, first to testify is Lehn Huff, on behalf of Maui School Garden Network, followed by John Dobovan.

MS. HUFF: Aloha ka kou, aloha mai.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha ka kou.

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MS. HUFF: It is my privilege to present to all of you tonight...first of all, though, I need to thank you for your tireless efforts. I realize it's basically 24-7 for you, I understand that, I appreciate it, I live it. My name is Lehn Huff, I am the Director of the Maui School Garden Network. I have been so since I took an early retirement from Seabury Hall 31 years of teaching high school and middle school. I started the middle school there and ran it for 21 years. I love middle schoolers. I realize I'm in a class of my own by saying that, but I do. The Maui School Garden Network is recently come under a new fiscal umbrella. We were under Tri-Isle, we are now as of January under the Grow Some Good non-profit status. So we did not have a non-profit status. We now have the fiscal sponsorship of Grow Some Good, because we are the two entities on the islands of Maui and Lanai that run the Garden Network together. We have different qualities and we have different approaches and we are merging right now. And I am already on their board, I am the Vice President of the board for Grow Some Good. So just to clarify that because it's going to affect my fiscal ask at the end. I have taken the time to send each and every one of you an e-mail, a personal e-mail, because I have identified the schools in your particular district and where they are in each school because we are now in every single DOE school on Maui and Lanai and Molokai, and that was my goal. So here I am at the end...I'm in year five and we have met our dashboard requirements, I am happy to say. We have a sustainability model that is working. My ask is going to have to do with the fact that we are now two organizations merging and so it's going to be slightly more. I said in your e-mail, it would be 30,000 as an ask. And we are working with close to 10,000 students—let me throw that in—376 teachers, 45 garden coordinators. Now, moving on, we are part of a pre-K, now pre-K, effective last month. We added preschool because we now have a colleague who is also part of the state Farm to School movement who is from Kauai, she is native-born from Kauai, and she has produced a garden manual for preschool on gardening, nutrition, and cooking. I am now working on a partnership with MEO Head Start to that effect. So so much of what we have heard tonight goes to why this is such a critical program. It is hands on. The DOE is now moving into the concept of hands on. We've been there for ten years. It is hands on. We were in gardens that are a refuge, they are a safety spot. They do not grade A through F, they welcome. And we've already had instances on our campuses that required students to be allowed...one in particular who was trying to escape from school, and finally the counselor agreed with him that when he was feeling that way he could go to the garden. So I'm just taking in what everyone has said, and the mana'o, and the feelings for our children, and starting early for prevention. This is not at all what I wrote about, but it's what I live on a day-to-day basis. Also, my ask is going to be slightly larger because I've done this pro bono for the past ten years because it is my passion and I live it and I love it. And that's, fiscal managers, that's an equivalent of about \$725,000 --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Huff, can you please conclude?

MS. HUFF: --which I gladly give because I'm where I need to be. Okay. Let's just go on.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Huff, can you please conclude your testimony?

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MS. HUFF: Yes, I can.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One last sentence.

MS. HUFF: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Okay. So with our garden...oh, one last sentence. The children who started with us ten years ago are now graduating from high school, and when it comes to growing future farmers, we are your boots on the ground. Being in every school means we know what's going on, because we're there. We're not just feeding curriculum into some cause, we're there. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any questions? Seeing none, thank you so much for your...oh, you have a question? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, guys. Just...was 30,000 the final ask?

MS. HUFF: The final ask is 70,000. That is because the funds for operating Maui School Garden Network are 125,000 approximately; and for Grow Some Good they're approximately 250,000 sometimes 300,000 annually. And so the ask is 70,000 total.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no more questions, mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Huff. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is John Dobovan, on behalf of Hawaii Farmers Union United, to be followed by Mary Bailey.

MR. DOBOVAN: Good evening, Councilmembers. I'm John Dobovan. I am the President of the Haleakala Chapter of Hawaii Farmers Union United. Our chapter has about 500 members, and we meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month in a cafeteria at Kalama Intermediate. And it's potluck, you guys are all welcome as is the public. As you know, HFUU is all about the food. We say that all the time. And, you know, this is an issue that's becoming more pressing with every single passing year. We're now living in an era of climate chaos and increasing global food insecurity. And the only thing that's certain is that as a tiny island at the long end of a very tenuous supply chain, we need to take action to increase our local food supply, we know that. Well, that starts with farmers. And, you know, I want to thank you for the wisdom you've shown in steadily supporting our Farm Apprentice Mentorship Program. I'm one of the mentors in that program, and one of the graduates from the program is now a partner in my farm. So I can tell you from experience, this program works. But, you know, with your continued support, there's so much more we can do. The FAM Program is growing and we want to expand the opportunity or students to work side by side with seasoned farmers. As an old farmer, I like seasoned farmer better, you know. Classroom learning is important for students. It's a great way to quickly learn, you know, add knowledge. But there's absolutely no substitute for getting your hands dirty, you know, hands-on experience is crucial. You know, it's been said, you have to dig 10,000 holes to learn

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how to use a shovel. Okay. Maybe that sounds silly, but it's the God's honest truth. And, you know, farming is not just mental, it's certainly mental, but you've got to be mental, but it's also, it's whole-body stuff, you know, your body has to learn how to do this stuff. So we're putting forward a request to help us increase both the number of FAM students and to increase their support in the hands-on mentoring portion. But, even beyond that, there's so much more we can do as an organization. This year, once again, for the second year in a row actually, Maui is going to host our state convention. And I don't know how many of you gotten to attend last year, but it was just off the charts. We had world-class experts coming in from around the globe and the amount of information was just...it was just mind-boggling. But, you know, it was sad because, you know, we had to charge \$150 a head, and that included me also. We had a lot of support, a lot of local donations, and you know, businesses like Pacific Biodiesel chipped in a lot of money, but still, you know, it costs a lot of money to bring that stuff in. We're asking the Council to help support the, you know, the state convention when it's on Maui this year, not for other years. We only had about 500 people attend, with all this incredible stuff going on. And I asked my farmer friends, I said, you know, why didn't you come? And they all said the same thing, I just couldn't afford it, you know. So with your support, we can bring that cost way down and we can allow hundreds of Maui farmers, you know, hundreds more Maui farmers to attend and learn. And, you know, that knowledge will directly benefit Maui with more plentiful and more nutritious food. You know, we have, as Phyllis pointed out, we got four vibrant chapters here on Maui. We've got about 1,000 members here on Maui alone, and each chapter has projects that could use support. Haleakala, my chapter, would really like to see an HFUU booth in local farmers markets, not just Upcountry but in town as well. I had to tell you that as a farmer, I can't be in both places, I can't go to the market and farm at the same time. And, you know, and that's hard. The markets can't grow, my farm can't grow, consumers don't get access, they can't find my produce so everybody loses. And we feel that by putting together a booth that can aggregate produce from big and small farms, would be a tremendous benefit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Dobovan, can you please conclude your testimony?

MR. DOBOVAN: I'm sorry?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Your testimony, can you please conclude your testimony?

MR. DOBOVAN: Yes, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

MR. DOBOVAN: So I'm just basically asking you to please, you know, you have a request before you. Also, I just want to also mention, I also want to ask you to please support the Common Ground Collective. They're doing a wonderful job of connecting, you know, local suppliers and consumers, and they're foster farming Upcountry gleaning program which could collect produce from backyard gardens could be a tremendous benefit for the HFUU food booth. Thank you very much.

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

MR. DOBOVAN: Thank you for your patience and your kind attention.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for your testimony.

MR. DOBOVAN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testier is Mary Bailey on behalf of Makawao Merchants Association, followed by Kelly Day.

MS. BAILEY: Hi, everybody. Thank you so much, Councilmembers, for doing what you do. Thank you for being our voice. I also want to thank everyone for being here and coming and taking the time to represent all of these community causes that we all care so much about. We live in a really special place. And I can tell that we all are so grateful to be here. So thank you. So I am the Project Director for Makawao Third Friday Town Party. I hosted the event for about three years. I recently took about a year break and now I'm back doing it again. It's a labor of love, it's a really special community event. I feel that with everything that's happening all around the world, it's even more important now than ever for us to have free community entertainment events for local Maui residents as well as tourists who are here so they can come and they can learn about our culture, they can shop at our local stores, they can just experience how special it is where we live here. This year, we got a new grant through the Maui Visitors Bureau. It was specifically to help us pay for entertainment and activities that help perpetuate the Hawaiian culture, and I was thrilled to receive this grant. It meant that I had the funding to hire cultural entertainers and cultural educators. I was able to bring in...work with Kaehu Organization, non-profit; and they came and they taught lomi lomi and other educators to our keiki at the event. I was also able to bring in hula performers and hula educators. We got to teach Hawaiian chant from the main stage. We were able to afford to bring in larger acts like Amy Hanaialii, who is playing next Friday, we are really excited for that. So, by bringing in acts like that, we are able to bring in more people to our event, which means that the Makawao merchants are having more people come and shop and spend money. This also does not just support the merchants of Makawao, it also supports the community members and residents as well. So thank you so much for your support. And we hope that this support continues in the future. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. We have a question for you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi. Thanks for being here and what you do for Makawao.

MS. BAILEY: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering, did you approach the Visitors Bureau or they approached you?

MS. BAILEY: Actually, no, they approached us, and we were told that past Councilmembers from previous years really felt that it was important for all of the town parties to receive more funding specifically to perpetuate Hawaiian culture. And so that came to us, I think it started last September. We didn't have much notice, and so it's been interesting being able to use the grant. And they have told us that they don't know if we will receive that grant again. It has been monumental for our organization to have that funding. We are just barely getting by. It has been very difficult to get support from other members of the community. We have reached out to businesses, corporations, trying to get sponsorships; and it has been very difficult. Even the merchants are having a very hard time, so they're not donating as much as they used to in previous years. So this grant has been huge and we really hope that it continues for future years.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So just...you don't...it doesn't matter to you where it comes from...

MS. BAILEY: Well, we get a grant through the Office of Economic Development, which has been extremely helpful, but it's just simply not enough. And so we are...I mean I can't express it enough, we are just barely scraping by without this second grant. So the fact that we got the second grant from Maui Visitors Bureau has been huge. And it's been even...I love that it's specifically to perpetuate Hawaiian culture. It's been allowing us to bring in tons of different educators and performers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Any other questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So the funding, when you talk about it's for entertainment, is it to pay the entertainers or is it to bring them here?

MS. BAILEY: No, it's...so it's a rule, because we are working with the Maui Visitors Bureau, we can only hire Maui-based entertainers. So if they can come from other island like Lanai, that's fine, but they have to be Maui County entertainers. And so that pays their entertainment fee.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Absolutely. Anything else?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony, Ms. Bailey.

MS. BAILEY: Yes, thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Kelly Day, followed by Om Aloha.

MS. DAY: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. DAY: My name is Kelly Day, and I live in Haiku. And I'm a part of the Farm Apprenticeship [sic] Mentoring Program, and I'm a new farmer. I'm three months into a year-long program that teaches sustainability and whole systems agriculture. This apprenticeship is practical, it's hands-on learning, it's about taking care of the aina, it's taking care of the community, and it's growing food. This is a practical program in making steps towards a sustainable Maui. This program is growing farmers. I feel supported, educated, and blessed to have amazing mentors; and I'm learning things that I would have never learned in a book. My daughter told me about four months ago that she wanted to be a farmer and so I searched out this program and found it and we're growing food and we're growing flowers. And, yeah, it's been amazing. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Day. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Om Aloha, followed by Cynthia Conrad.

MR. ALOHA: Hi. I'm Om Aloha, and I'm also from Haiku and I'm also part of the FAM Program. And I just...you've heard what Kelly had to say and I just want to add a few other things, is that one of the first things we learned in there is how to take the soil, which has been depleted from decades and decades of pineapple and sugar cane, and we live in Haiku so that's what our land is, and we're learning how to reclaim it and bring the microbiology back to life and bring the...it just becomes alive. And some of the farms, we have 30 mentors who have all done this to their land. And the soil, what it was before and what it is now, I can't even tell you what's happening; and they can do this very quickly. So we're learning ancient Hawaiian techniques, we're learning Korean techniques, we're learning scientific techniques that show how to bring the island back to life and it's incredible. And also, the quality of the food goes way up, which will help with our health problems. And we're working...farming used to be something that was isolated, and this is bringing the community together. And the farmers are excited, they get to teach new people like myself. And I always loved gardening, but I didn't quite know what to do after the first crop because the pests would come in or the food wouldn't come back the second time, and now I know how to do these kind of things. And so I just want to say, thank you for your support and it's an incredible program. And it is

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about bringing Maui to sustainability. One other thing I wanted to add was that in the past there were 200,000 Hawaiians living on this island in sustainability. We have about 180,000 people here and we only grow 10 percent of our food. And by learning these techniques—and I'm passing this on to the high schools and to the junior high schools and to the preschools—we can turn this island to where we can make ourselves flourish in a paradise of our own food and really healthy food and really healthy people. So thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Cynthia Conrad, followed by Adam Knox.

MS. CONRAD: . . . *(Plays audio of coqui frogs)*. . . That sound familiar? I hope not. That's what I get to hear every night. My name is Cynthia Conrad, and aloha to everybody. Thank you for your attention tonight. Since coqui frogs were inadvertently introduced to Maliko Gulch some years ago, we experienced them hopping across Kaluanui Road and marching right up to our house, which is next door to the Hui Noeau near Baldwin Avenue. And both the Hui and we now have...we have frogs surrounding us, and it is loud, annoying, disturbing, distractive, and invasive. Nighttime is a nightmare of increasing screeching. I describe it as the police whistle blowing in your ear every second all night long. People seem to get it when I say it that way. It's a deafening noise, you can't read, you can't sleep, you have to turn the TV on very loudly just to kind of block it out. It's hard to concentrate. So fortunately we have Maui Invasive Species Committee, and they are fantastic. They do a great job and it's hard nighttime work when they have to come out and spray. We had benefitted for five years from their expertise and their citric acid that they have supplied to us, and they loaned us a sprayer so we could go out and spray our own frogs. Now what they're trying to do is they're trying to contain it. And, you know, they all came up from Maliko Gulch and we are in the middle of, you know, that area. And so they're trying to keep them from spreading and they really can't get to us too often. So about every three or four months, they come out with their industrial firehouse sprayer and they do some work on our property but then the rest of the time it's up to us. So with every passing week, these frogs multiply and they expand to outlying areas. And they get into the wheel wells of your car and then you drive down to the County building and park right next to your car and you know what happens next. So I've been told that MISC needs funding to create four more field teams to get in and stop this infestation. So I'm asking you to please include adequate funding in FY 2020 for coqui frog eradication. Property values will fall if we don't do this, visitors will be repelled, and our tax base will fall. So with additional resources, we must not fail in our work to eradicate Maui of the coqui frogs. Thank you very much. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing none, mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Conrad.

MS. CONRAD: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Stewart?

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MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Adam Knox, followed by Abigail Llewellyn.

MR. KNOX: Thank you for inviting me here tonight, Council, I appreciate it. My name is Adam Knox and I would like to talk about invasive species on Maui and how they move around as stowaways as well as potential solutions to this problem. And I should disclose that I do work for the Maui Invasive Species Committee, but I am here on my own accord because I'm very concerned as a citizen of my community. And I do also want to support the other organizations, some of which may be in the room tonight who work on bio security in Maui County. So I do have experience working to better understand and control many invasive species in addition to miconia and coqui frogs and little fire ants, the ones that a lot of people are used to, which are usually the primary focus here in Maui County for very good reason. But I previously also worked on Guam as the brown tree snake rapid response team coordinator for the entire Pacific region, so I do come to you with experience and foresight into what invasive species impacts look like if the extremes here in Hawaii and beyond. There is a commonality, though, that all invasive species seem to share here on Maui, in that they all effectively move around the island and start new infestations through green waste dumped in any area that is not the Central Maui Landfill. So if everyone took their yard waste to the Central Maui Landfill then a lot of time, money, and ground effort could be likely saved by those professionals and residents who work diligently to find, control, and prevent invasive species infestations since these invasive species would likely aggregate at one site instead of, you know, all over the map. Because there are currently limited alternatives for those lacking proximity to landfill areas to install green waste aggregation sites, I'm asking to install green waste...or the County to review its available land holdings in other suitable sites to find areas to install green waste aggregation sites in Hana, Haiku, Lahaina, Napili, Kihei, and Kula. If the people of Maui County have County green waste drop-off sites that are free and convenient, they won't have to find remote gulches, fallow fields, and otherwise out-of-sight locations to expeditiously get rid of green waste that may contain some of the islands worst invasive species. As for the work that MISC and other bio security focused organizations do, monitoring the thousands of residences, natural areas, and businesses that have been affected by invasive species like coqui frogs and little fire ants is only going to get more difficult if simple fixes like this aren't put in place sooner than later. The other way to stem the movement of invasive species is to stop importing those items and materials that carry the most risk of invasive species transmission from the Big Island. These include lots of items, but nursery plants have historically been a big culprit. And I'd just like to finish in saying, there are no broad economic benefits to this type of interisland commerce that outweigh the real and current future costs born by invasive species. Thank you for your time, appreciate it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Knox. What were the places that you said other green waste areas should be created? Hana, Napili, Haiku...

MR. KNOX: Yeah, I kind of just...all over the map. Anywhere that you can get a broader distribution other than just Central Maui. So I mean I said, yeah, Napili, Kihei, Lahaina,

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Haiku, Hana, and Kula. These are all areas where invasive species infestations, you know, there's anecdotal evidence that they've been moved by green waste to some of these spots, which some of you I'm sure are already familiar with.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Knox. Mahalo for your testimony. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: Next to testify is Abigail Llewellyn, followed by Matthew Murasko.

MS. LLEWELLYN: Good evening, Councilmembers and community members. I'm honored to be here. My name is Abigail. I'm part of the FAM Program as well. I'm a sign-language interpreter by day and a bee keeper by night and a mother. So any funds or energies towards the youth I highly support that. Our household is cultivating a quadrilingual child right now: Spanish, English, sign language, and Olelo Hawaii; and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be part of the community to add that. The FAM Program has brought all my worlds together in a funny way. Meeting farmers, beekeepers, community members, the networking with the people. I've worked on farms before, but it was very isolating. I was out in the country and it's overwhelming. And now we've finally queued in to what our plan is, how can we manifest that, our resources, how to work in line with people who've been here and who are passing down traditions and how to really implement what we need to and what needs to be sustained for the youth. Beekeeping can't be learned in books; that's something I couldn't learn in a library if I wanted to. I've got these things to prove it. We're out there removing hives, putting 'em in a safe place, and eventually, as we all know, bees are very important. So I'm thankful for the opportunity. The FAM, with the community and just the hands-on learning experience that I've never experienced anything like it where you learn in the classroom and then three days later you're out in the field implementing it. So I'm really thankful for that opportunity and I encourage anyone who wants to farm, has farmed, has farming in their family to take it to the next level and seek out a mentor, find someone that can help guide you to the next level.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions, mahalo for your testimony. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Matthew Murasko on behalf of Paia Youth and Cultural Center, followed by Paul Pyzyna.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Stewart, will you please call the next testifier?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Paul Pyzyna on behalf of Mental Health America of Hawaii, followed by David Johnson.

MR. PYZYNA: Aloha, Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

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MR. PYZYNA: My name is Paul Pyzyna. I'm a woodworker, end-of-life doula, and the thing I'm most proud of is that I work in MCCC in a men's mentoring circle. Mental Health America is a sponsor of the group of us that go in there. I think there's eight men and four women. In the last year, since I was here last, we've started a women's circle as well. And we had an outside program, which wasn't very well attended, so it's suspended at the moment. The men who come to our circle, half of them are mandated to do that, those who are on furlough who are about to be released in the community and then the ones who are just waiting to be sentenced, who are new in there. As you know, there was a riot recently, and I held my breath for two weeks waiting to get back in to see if any of the men in our circle were involved in that. And I was able to swallow after I was in there and I found that all our men were good, they weren't involved in that incident. Our goal in being there is to foster emotional literacy for these men so that they can feel and understand their emotions, so they don't have a knee-jerk response when things come up for them, issues, and so that they can pause and have awareness and have a choice instead of just reacting. Most of our population in there are victimless crimes, it's mostly drugs. And what happens in our circle is that they have an opportunity to express themselves, they have somebody who will listen. And there's also bonding that occurs. And so the men in the circle then go back into the dorm and they help to create peace and calm in the dorm and help people find their way and navigate when things come up. And this is all because Mental Health America sponsors us. So I'm not asking for any more, I just want you to continue the full funding that you've been giving Mental Health America so that the group of volunteers that go in can do their work and help the community out by helping these men out and women and make it a better world for everybody. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question for you. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So can you explain or share what exactly is the funding used for –

MR. PYZYNA: You know –

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: --and how much it is you're asking?

MR. PYZYNA: --I don't know. I don't know how much it is. It's Mental Health America's job, they support us, we get very little from them. We occasionally have a reward system the men complete in the eight-session program or a sixteen-session program, they get recognized with a certificate they can bring to the judge and we usually bring a pizza in and water. So we might get \$250 a year from them in support of that. And they also help us to find a place, a meeting place, for the men who've been released, to come to and continue the same sort of work. What Mental Health America does beyond that, I really don't know, and I don't know what kind of funding they have. Sorry I can't answer that any better.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: It's okay. I just want to...I was just curious --

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MR. PYZYNA: Yeah.

COUCILMEMBER KAMA: --'cause I wanted to know how much money is spent on Maui and where it goes and what the outcome and the results are. But thank you very much.

MR. PYZYNA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Mahalo for your testimony tonight, Mr. Pyzyna. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is David Johnson on behalf of Mental Health America of Hawaii, followed by Adam Hicks.

MR. JOHNSON: Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is David Johnson. I'm a volunteer, mentor in the men's mentoring circle; that's Maui Community Correctional Center. I was sponsored just, you know, on behalf of...by Mental Health America of Hawaii, which is who I'm testifying on behalf of. I've been involved in the program for about two years now. I've been sitting in men's circles outside the jail for about four. And honestly, when I was approached about working the jail, I really went in to test my own limits. I had this image of...my only image of jail life I would say was through Hollywood through sensational television images, and I couldn't believe that's what it was all about and I couldn't believe the, for myself, I couldn't believe the imagery which was presented to us of those who are incarcerated. And the...type of person you get through sitting in a circle of men being accountable to them, I wanted to see if this could be taken inside and I've had friends who'd already been facilitating in MCCC. And I just wanted to offer this, see what could come of it. After two years in the circle, I find myself sitting in a safe space, I feel as safe there as I feel here tonight. I actually wish the men could be here tonight just to testify on their own behalf. On average, we have about 14 men in the circle, sometimes it would drop down to eight, sometimes it can go up to 20, it just depends what's going on in the jail at the time. We don't have long there, by the time we got in there, the men have come in, we have one group coming in from Dorms 1 and 2 and another coming in from 6 and 7. It disrupts the thing and so we're probably not in there for much more than an hour and a half. As a limit, you can only go so far in that time. But I've seen change. I've seen men come in very dubious about what this is all about, which as Paul had just said, we try and teach emotional intelligence, give them something to work with when the emotions come up, which probably got them in there in the first place. They come in, you know, the body language says it all, they're quiet. They don't have to take part in anything, they can pass on whatever they want. And just with time, just as long as we create a safe space, we create a circle with some ground rules in it, some very simple ground rules, confidentiality being one of the main ones. And we just ask them to be real. We join them in the circle, we don't sit outside of the circle, we're in there with them. Anything going wrong in our own lives, we share. We try and be as authentic as we can. And we find that through our own authenticity, through the peers, the men who've been sitting there longer, very slowly, their arms drop and they start sharing in that circle. Our men speak about how they, you know, they hit some problems in the jail during their daily life there and they speak about

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what they've learned within our circle and how it helps them. So my ask of you is to continue sponsoring or offering money to Mental Health America to just to help this program, which both for the men and the women, it has been of great benefit. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions, mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Johnson. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next to testify is Adam Hicks on behalf of Maui Invasive Species Committee, to be followed by Georgia Pinsky.

MR. HICKS: Aloha, Council. My name is Adam Hicks. I'm a resident and farmer in Makawao. And if not inappropriate, a graduate of the last year's FAM cohort; so thank you for that. Mahalo to the Councilmembers for making this time, listening to citizens. There's a lot of engaged people and worthy causes. You have a difficult task. I'm here to speak in support of the proposed \$2.5 million budget for coqui eradication and support of the Maui Invasive Species Committee. The issue of coqui frogs may seem very specific, with your support and continued concerted efforts of MISC and the coordination with the public, it may remain an isolated problem that is in everyone's best interest as well as makes ecological sense to attempt to control. Two years ago around this time I was doing due diligence on a property just below Makawao at Maliko Gulch. It was not disclosed at the time that there were coqui frogs on or approaching the property or the severity of the problem. In the two years since, as one of the stewards of this piece of Maui, I've learned more about coqui frogs than I ever thought I would and I've been continually exposed to some of the hardest working people on Maui through my interaction with MISC staff. Their never-ending organized efforts around the coqui alone, are worth noting; but they also do so much more as you've heard from other people. As you may or may not be aware, the coqui hunts, to put it mildly, is a logistical challenge. And I know firsthand by going out in the dark, it's either track with GPS apps, where I've heard outbreaks, notify them immediately if any new odd locations or increased activity, and/or going out to spray with borrowed equipment from MISC long into the night, usually in the rain, spraying several hundred-gallon tanks armed with a flashlight and a hose. I do this as often as one of the two tanks they have available, and my schedule allows. It's an existential experience as you rarely see the exact or even confirmed impact of the effort. I commend all the assistance from MISC to control, on our property and the neighbors' properties, storing their tanks, clearing areas for access and habitat control, putting up with my odd questions, and managing this for so many other residents taking part in this effort. In areas where there are outbreaks, I've heard they've been successful at isolating those new zones, but this comes at the expense of the ongoing operations they work so hard at. I'm responsible for a property that's both at ground zero where the coqui were first introduced on Maui and the frontlines, or really last lines as they attempt to come out of Maliko Gulch and head higher up the mountain. One of the most important things I've learned is, this isn't purely a property value and inconvenience of the noise. They're actually a threat to the ecosystem for natural habitats of other native species, plants and trees. Personally, on our property, we're forced to make a difficult decision and not operate a nursery or plant/tree

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operation as part of our farm plan. Losing that potential revenue stream and ability to give back to the community greatly altered our path. But our abundance of caution, we cannot in conscience continue to put that out there. I've been to Puna. I've heard the craziness of it. With your effort, we can...or with your assistance, they can continue the efforts to control the population.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. One question, Mr. Hicks. Do you know if the citric acid kills the eggs?

MR. HICKS: My understanding, would have to...I'd defer to the MISC people –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. HICKS: --but my understanding is the citric acid will suffocate the frog and kill the...or do the same to the eggs as well, impact the eggs.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Mahalo for your testimony and for being on the front lines. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Georgia Pinsky on behalf of Farm Apprentice Mentoring, followed by Joseph Perez.

MS. PINSKY: Aloha. My name is Georgia Pinsky, and I'm here tonight to talk in support of the farmer apprentice mentorship program of the Hawaii Farmers Union United. First, I'd like to say, thank you for supporting this program. We're just in the process of our fourth cohort. And so just kind of getting out of those pilot program stages and feeling a little bit more confidence if you will. And so I appreciate your funding that in the beginning without that kind of a sense of understanding where we were headed. That said, at this point, I'm sure you can see where we're going. The farmer training program of HFUU has been vital for me in the stabilization and actualization of my farming goals and of my life goals. But my enthusiasm for this program is within a context of other programs here on Maui. Born and raised here on the island, I've really watched a lot of changes in the last 20 years. We all know things are speeding up and those changes are happening even quicker. So I just wanted to take a minute to talk about a couple of words. I'm a word freak. Vital, vitals often get referred to with our pulse or our heartbeat, but vital is defined as, of the utmost importance or necessary to the maintenance of life. To conjugate the word vital can give us revitalize. We hear this word a lot, especially in county government, yeah, we've got to revitalize things. But revitalize is to give new life or vigor to something. This is what the FAM Program is for and other programs that are focused on skill-providing and skill-building for our young people here on Maui. Revitalization of our communities and what it looks like to me, it looks like to strengthen and to fortify the community, to have skilled workers in all sorts of different trades, not just farming. And there are many trades like small machinery maintenance that support farming in and of itself. So if we don't have people who can fix the tractors, the farmers don't have the help that they need. So small tractor maintenance, growing food, getting along...starting a small business and knowing that

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there are programs like FAM Programs, like MEO, that are there to support these people as they make decisions. I'll be 36 this summer. Anyone older than me can remember the ag programs at Lahainaluna and Maui High and speaks of them with a lot of reverence and memory. Anybody younger than me, if I ask them what kind of ag experience they had in high school, they look at me wistfully and say, no, they don't offer those kind of programs anymore. So the work that Ms. Huff is doing with Grow Some Good and the Maui School Garden Network is absolutely integral. But what do you do with a young person, 15, 16, 17 years old who went through these FFA programs and is coming out the backend of high school and says to somebody, I want to be a farmer. The University is working on it. Go Farm is a fabulous program, but here on Maui Go Farm is credit based and it's different on the other islands. So here on Maui, the farm apprentice mentorship program is integral to making sure that we have easy, approachable, accessible opportunities for people who want to make farming a career. So not just FAM, but MEO, Boys and Girls Club, PYCC, yes the Common Ground Collective, making that space between growing food and eating food, a more accessible space. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of FAM and I really look forward to seeing what we can do in the future.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question for you Ms. Pinsky. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Do you have to own your own land to be a participant in the FAM Program?

MS. PINSKY: No.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So you can take the program and not have any land and then after you take the program, you graduate, you don't own land, what do you do with skill?

MS. PINSKY: The farmer-training program also provides support and resources to people on an individual basis to reach their goals. So some of our farmers have a goal of owning their own farm. Other farmers have a goal of becoming a skilled farmer and working for a larger operation or a small farm. You know, even the small farmers need one or two good workers that they can count on. So not everybody maybe has that entrepreneurial spirit, but if they do, we absolutely connect them with mentors who can help them with mentors who can help them with a leasing process or a purchase process. The FSA and the USDA provides loan programs for these sorts of things.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Mahalo, Ms. Pinsky, for your testimony. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Joseph Perez, to be followed by Brooke Mahnken. The next testifier if Brooke Mahnken, to be followed by Emily Hoke.

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MR. MAHNKEN: Aloha. I'm Brooke Mahnken. And, like Adam Knox earlier who spoke about green waste, I am here to testify as a private citizen but should disclose that I do work for Maui Invasive Species Committee. I love my job and I'm very proud of work that I've done over the last 15 years there. So it's no surprise that I'll talk about the environment, but I do want to talk more generally about the environment and not specifically about MISC. I want to thank...sorry, is it not high enough? I want to thank the Council and your predecessors for being fiercely supportive of conservation and environmental protection for many years. Maui County sets the bar in this state for support of conservation. What I would like is for you to raise the bar and fully fund programs for conservation environmental protection. There are a lot of wonderful and important programs that you have to make decisions about funding. Some of those programs, if they go underfunded, can be set aside and funded again later. The environment, if it goes unprotected, ecosystems collapse, habitat is lost, species go extinct, and it is gone forever. And it's not just gone for us, but it's gone for future generations as well. So I want you...I implore you to keep that in mind when you make your decisions. And for an example that I'm knowledgeable about, on the Big Island, little fire ants are completely out of control. Life with little fire ants is miserable. People are treating their properties in perpetuity just so that they can be comfortable in their own homes. And here on Maui, we face little fire ants, but that situation is preventable. So my ask is that you fully fund programs to support conservation and environmental protection. Thank you. Oh, citric acid does kill the eggs.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. MAHNKEN: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Appreciate that. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Mahnken. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Emily Hoke, to be followed by Anastasia Malson.

MS. HOKE: Hi, guys. I'm happy to be here tonight. It's really nice to be around all these people who care so much about Maui, and I feel like I could testify for so many of these programs that have touched my life in different ways. But I am actually a FAM apprentice. And I was born and raised here on Maui, and I grew up in Haiku but after college, I did not return home like many of my classmates. In the last year, I did return...or in the last year I returned with my small children because I wanted them to grow up here like I did and connected to our family and our friends here. And it's just been such a privilege to be part of this FAM Program because I've always been interested in plants and good food and farms and farmer...like, just natural spaces, especially while living in cities on the Mainland. And now I can take the knowledge that I'm learning in this program and apply it every day. I'm working on three overgrown Haiku acres that belong to my family and trying to turn them into food for the community. So FAM has taught me soil building, and soil is the foundation of our food. So what goes in your soil goes in your food so that's been so amazing to learn and witness. They taught me propagation, irrigation, responsible and effective pest management, which is

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huge. We have learned just so much. In all of this, we've been taught with respect to native Hawaiian traditions, which is also very important. So I'm just very grateful for this opportunity and my goal is to grow as much food as I can on those three acres for my family, for my community, and anyone else who wants access to good, healthy food. So thank you so much for your support and for this opportunity. Good night.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Hoke, mahalo. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Anastasia Malson, followed by Hugh Starr.

MS. MALSON: Hello, everyone, and thank you. This is my first experience at this. I'm here to speak on behalf of MEO's rental assistance program. I'm a senior citizen, and without their help, I would not have been able to finally get into Hale Mahaolu—excuse me—with their help. I've been a single mom for a very long time. And I have a child that has medical concerns, so it's been really hard. And I've applied for everything possible to get in with HUD and all of the Hale Mahaolus on Maui and even Lanai and Molokai. And I've been on a wait list for more than five years. And on the HUD one, when my name did come up after being on the list like number 177 or something, I was put into a lottery and then I was not chosen. So finally, this year, my landlord that I had told me she was selling her place and I about just lost it because where do you go on Maui, there's no housing, there's...and seniors already live on a fixed income. So, anyway, I went, and when they showed me how much my rent would be and all, the gal from the County called me and said that I qualified. But when they called me and I looked at the rent, and I said, oh my God, I can't afford this. And she said, no, that's not what it is because they fund, right, everybody funds. And then I said, oh, okay. And then when they wanted the deposit and the first month's rent, oh, God, I said, oh, I'm sorry, I cannot accept. And then they suggested that I go to MEO. And so without MEO's help and assistance with their rental program I would right now be homeless. And so I just got into the new Hale Mahaolu Ewalu up in Pukalani and I'm very, very grateful to MEO. And I had no idea they even had this program. So I want to thank you for supporting that and seniors. Maui does not realize how many seniors live on fixed incomes and really have no places to go or live. They...local style, eh, ohana. You either live in your own house or with family. But, however, in today's day and age, it's just a little different the way everything falls into place, and seniors are really taking gas. So thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Malson. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Hugh Starr, on behalf of Hamakua Alohalua, to be followed by Dagmar de Zwart.

MR. STARR: Good evening, Chair and Members. Thank you for coming out in the evening time, out into the community. I'm Hugh Starr. And couple things that I just want to touch on. First, you may know that last year the Council did allocate funds to resurface the mauka section of Holomua Road. As you probably have heard, it's like a de facto bypass when there's an accident or something, now with all the traffic we're getting on

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the North Shore. So we hear through the grapevine that actually there's more work involved than was originally anticipated. So I suspect that you may be getting a request—I haven't actually looked at the Budget so I don't know—for more funds to get that job done. But, basically, the part from Hana Highway up to Old Maui High is already paved. From Maui High to Baldwin Avenue is gravel. And that...if that could get resurfaced...I mean surfaced, that would really be a big help for the community. So that's that. And kind of the skin in the game that I have there, besides I use the road, is I am part of an organization called Hamakua Alohalua. We are a nonprofit that with the assistance of Kamehameha Schools, they helped us get our 501(c)(3), and we are sort of the upwelling of a community effort that came forth in the last couple of years to repurpose Old Maui High. And so we were unfortunately a little bit sort of put on hold with the prior Mayor because he had other plans so we just had to sit on our hands. And now that we're in a new time, we're starting to reconnoiter and get our group back together again. So we look forward to working with you and in the coming months after Budget. And we would love to get some domestic water to the site next budget cycle, but we'll come talk story with you all; and, when appropriate, just to acquaint you with what we're doing and we hope to collaborate with Rich Lucas and the Friends of Old Maui High because they are the legacy of that place and the legacy of Patsy Takemoto Mink is really critical. So that, we hope, will get all woven in as well. So thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question for you. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Hi, Hugh, nice to see you. So can you tell me the road again?

MR. STARR: Holomua.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Holomua Road.

MR. STARR: Holomua, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And the part that you're looking for continuing paving?

MR. STARR: Yeah. So you know where Old Maui High is. There's the road that goes from Baldwin Avenue over to Old Maui High. That's the upper section of Holomua Road. And it's...I don't know if it was ever paved, even when Old Maui High was a school. It's gravel and gets in really bad shape when we get the, you know, winter rains. It's in great shape right now. County baseyard just worked it last week so I came down tonight. And it's actually really nice. But it needs to be paved so that it...it's a de facto bypass for Paia now. And you don't really know it until there's an accident and then everybody has to use it. And if it's at a cycle where you got potholes and little bit of danger by the punawai there, so that's where it is.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. STARR: Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Mahala, Mr. Starr, for your testimony.

MR. STARR: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Dagmar de Zwart. Our next testifier is Ian Chan Hodges, followed by Shay Chan Hodges.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Good evening.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Good evening.

MR. CHAN HODGES: I'll try to keep this quick so you guys can go home a little earlier. I think last time I saw you all was in Hana and we were just watching and listening and we didn't testify. But I want to tell you really quick of what happened. We were in Hana for two days and what happened there. And I'm testifying on behalf of the ESG program initiative. But when we were in Hana, we actually...I spent a lot of time talking to Sam Akoi. I think it was your last testifier. And also we had a dinner there with community members that basically included all food grown and raised in Hana, which is actually very cool and delicious. But the point I want to make is that Hana actually is a model for Hawaii in Maui as a sustainable community. And in the process of being there, one of the things we're doing with this ESG program is we're having the, probably at the end of the year or in January, we're going to have the conference which brings in investors, institutional investors into Maui to actually interact with our community, but between now and then what we want to do is actually educate our community and have them interact and talk about how this role works. So in other words, how does PSP, when PSP gives money to Mahi Pono to buy all the land they bought from A&B how does that work. When Blackstone comes in and buys the Grand Wailea and the other hotels they bought in Hawaii, how does that work, what are they looking for, how do you do that. And I actually spent a lot of time talking to Sam about that and he was talking about what he does in terms of hunting and gathering, and as a cultural practitioner and what we ended up with after a few hours of conversation, he said, okay, here's what I'd like to have happen. I would like to, at this conference, I would like to be able to actually meet somebody senior at PSP and be able to bring them to Hana to go up into the ahupua'a and see what this looks like and be able to use that. And we're calling this ahupua'a conference because there's a lot of...the ahupua'a system actually is something that we think the larger investment role needs to learn from in terms of how investment need to work. And what we'd like to actually do with this conference is actually do what Sam was talking about, is be able to have the community understand how these things work and then actually bring the people together. And one of the things that Sam said, and he actually took time off from work to go testify at the Legislature on the 1326 bill and he testified against it, not surprisingly. But what he said was, I'd like to see face-to-face with the people who are these investors, explain to

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them what our needs are. And after I talked to him, but he said, I understand they're a retiree fund, I support that, let's get together and actually talk about how we can actually work together. And that's one of the main goals we have for this conference, to be able to do that. The other thing that happened while we were there is we actually met with a woman who actually sold her business in California, bought a bunch of property in Hana and wants to give back to the community and she actually, in part of our conversation of working on this, she actually agreed to provide a part of the match, to be able to match the County. So that was kind of a nice way to end the weekend. But, again, asking for your support for the ESG program, and we want to be able to do is have the...be able to bring people together to figure out how we can get investment in Hawaii in a way that actually benefits the community. And the final thing I'll say in the last six seconds is, the PYCC program, listening to all the kids and seeing about what the future is for them, that's our ultimate goal is to actually have a future for our kids where there's jobs and opportunity and investment works for them. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no questions, mahalo Mr. Chan Hodges. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Shay Chan Hodges on behalf of responsible markets, Maui United Way, to be followed by Catherine Clark.

MS. CHAN HODGES: Aloha, everyone.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. CHAN HODGES: We're not going to every meeting. You got a little break from us. I know. I'm getting tired. You must be exhausted. So, yes, I'm just going to give some updates on the Maui ESG Investment Project and Ahupua'a Conference. And as you know by now, I think that ESG stands for environmental care, social responsibility, and good governance. And so I just wanted to make sure you, because it is complicated or something new that you may not have all the information, when we got back from Hana or right before we left Hana on Sunday, we got an e-mail from Kay Fukumoto who said you folks had requested some additional information and so we did send her this page-and-a-half document that describes the project a little better because it isn't just a conference and also gives you some topics that we're going to be covering. So I just want to make sure you know that that's coming. And I know that you are also asking about where we're expecting to get the match from. So, as Ian said, well, we got some of it already and we got it in Hana. But we're not expecting to get much more from Hana. So we are...just to...we're also...Maui United May is our fiscal sponsor so we had a really great conversation with Kari this week, and she's going to...we're working together for local foundations and local businesses to also get support. Our son is graduating on May 11th in Pennsylvania so when we head over to the East Coast, we're also going to spend several days in New York City meeting with funders and other folks' foundations, that kind of thing. And people in the investment, the impact investment world. The other thing I wanted to let you folks know, and I think I may need to e-mail you all separately. I did send an e-mail to the Committee, the EDB Committee, yesterday. Since Kelly King had asked for a website, we added some pages to our

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responsible markets website so that you can get this information in a more digestible way. So if you go to responsiblemarkets.com, scroll to the bottom and you'll see a beautiful photo of Hana and ESG Investment Project, click on that link and then you will see a lot more information, a lot of details about it. The other thing that we e-mailed you besides the website was a packet of letters of support. So we have a letter of support from Mayor Victorino, a letter of support from Louis Hokoana, the Chancellor of UH Maui College, and also several impact investing folks who are very excited to be a part of this. So I encourage you to look at those letters. And the other thing we have attached is an op-ed that I think some of you may have seen. It's an op-ed that Kehau Filimoeatu wrote a couple years ago for the *Star-Advertiser* just right after she retired from the police force and as a new retiree and a beneficiary of the ERS, she describes the ahupua'a concept. And I think it's also a nice way to understand what our perspective is going to be. So, anyway, I think that we had a great conversation today, also, with Jocelyn Dimirba at UH Maui College in talking about other ways of bringing in more funding. So we really are confident about bringing the match in, we see a lot of excitement. And any questions you have we're happy to e-mail and get you more information.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Seeing no questions, thank you so much for your testimony. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Catherine Clark.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think she left.

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Becky Erickson, followed by George Chyz.

MS. ERICKSON: I know I'm not going to be able to reach up there. Okay. Thank you. My name's Becky Erickson, and I'm a resident of Haiku Hill Subdivision. And the person before me who's gone and seven other of my neighbors were all here and they're all going to try to come and see you in Wailuku because we all get tired staying up at night fighting frogs. So they all were here support...we're all here to support...ask for your support again of Maui Invasive Species for the coqui frogs. I've been living up on Haiku Hill for ten years as a renter and now as a homeowner, and I'm right on the edge of it, and I've gone up and down as far as my belief of whether or not we can really do something about it. I've been over to the Big Island, and I'm sure most of you know what it really could be like. And I'm used to it, but I did close my door when I went to bed last night because they were pretty active. And I have to say, with the ups and downs I've seen, these young folks that have been working for Maui Invasive Species have been so...so impressed me that I really believe now that we can actually do something about it. They have the last two months we started a program just in our neighborhood where they help us bring tanks and bring the citric to help us with all the neighbors do our own and I sprayed 400 gallons on my property last week and it's quiet now and it's incredible what can possibly happen. And I am a new believer that we can do something about it. I also work in the visitor industry on all the islands and I really think that we should try really hard to protect Maui, and I think it's possible with these

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incredibly hard workers and they just really believe in it. And to have these young people who believe so much, I think we can really do something. So I just want to say thank you for your support. And hopefully it needs to be continuous in order for it to really make a difference. And I think, you know, if we continue it for the next few years, I think we can protect the rest of Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question for you. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Becky, for being here tonight. What would you say about any education as far as, you know, I know a lot of the funding goes towards actually combatting the coqui, but what's...do you see any efforts in education as far as keeping it contained?

MS. ERICKSON: I've noticed that in the past, one or two of the young people that I've worked with in the last few years with invasive species have grown up here and they get really excited. One of the current people, gal who's the community coordinator I think has grown up here, and I think teaching the young kids, when you see what these young kids can do, teaching them really young like this about something that, to them, ooh, it's something interesting, it's hard to catch, it's I think starting with the young people and in the schools. Teaching all the invasive species. Because they're the ones it's going to affect. It's not going to affect me when it takes over the island. I probably won't be able to hear 'em or be here. But I think my suggestion is the young people, educate in the schools, because they take it home to their parents. And their parents help them with their homework and their school projects and you have a school project about the frogs and then you get the parents and the community involved. So I would say, the school level.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. ERICKSON: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Seeing...that's it. Mahalo for your testimony. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is George Chyz...Cheez [sic], sorry. To be followed by James Fleming.

MR. CHYZ: I'm just testifying to share my opinion of where money should be spent and where it should be gathered. So first of all I think one of the most important things on Maui is affordable housing. And I would press the builders to follow through with affordable housing commitments. As far as I know, there's many projects that were built that were supposed to have affordable housing components and they were not fulfilled. I think fines should be imposed on those companies, severe fines, and they should be required to follow through with their affordable housing and the affordable housing should be defined accurately so that it's actually affordable. And I think money should be spent on all of that. I think you should relax building codes for rural properties which provide

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real affordable housing and they have traditionally done that but the building department has come in and destroyed a lot of that affordable housing and I think that should be stopped. You should really get the building department to back off. It's just a waste of money and time and it hurts people and makes it so we don't have housing. Some people like to live simply and let them live simply. They don't need to have something that belongs in North America with double-wall construction and all this baloney. Anyway, raise property taxes on luxury properties to increase the budget. I would do this drastically. I would really increase that because if you look at taxation historically in America, the rich were taxed over 90 percent for 20 years from 1944 to 1964. It was 94 percent for the highest tax bracket in 1944. And it stayed above 90 percent all the way up till 1964. These were the years when America was thriving. And that was followed by a decline down to 70 percent which held up all the way to 1981. In 1981, the highest tax bracket was still 70 percent. Once Ronald Reagan got in, it went down to 28 percent. Okay. Now, we can see what's happened since then. And you can't control the income tax obviously, but you can tax the bejeezuz out of the luxury properties and have money to help build affordable housing for people that, you know, do all the work that the rich people benefit from because they get a cut of everybody's work and that's the way the ball rolls. So then I would...simultaneously, I would reduce property taxes for low-income homes so that they're more affordable so rent can go down. I would tax also increase and tax fallow ag land at a high rate. There's a lot of fallow ag land that's just speculative property that people are holding on to and they're paying almost nothing in taxes. And they're going to make a lot of money when they sell their property. I would increase...this is just a fiscal thing that I would increase the minimum wage to \$15 to \$20 an hour. I think that every place...Maui is in the category of places like Seattle and San Francisco in terms of costs...could I have another minute, please?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have one minute to conclude.

MR. CHYZ: I have a couple of other little things. I'll go quickly. So, anyway, places like Seattle and San Francisco have boomed after increasing their minimum wage. Workers go and shop, they buy things, and everything increases when you have workers that are well-paid. I would put a lot of money into eradicating the crystal meth; and to do that, I think you have to eliminate corruption in the Maui Police Department and, you know, I don't think that's going to be easy but, you know, I mean that lady that was just up here talking about her drug problems, crystal meth was the root of it. And MPD is not interested in eliminating it 'cause they get kickbacks. So you really...that's a huge problem, it destroys families, it ruins communities, it's got to go. The Paia bypass, put money into that. Town square in Paia...and I would do a biochar production at the green waste facility. You should have a biocharred production facility at the green waste rather than just turning it and compost, which disappears in a tropical zone. You can turn the woody stuff into biochar that lasts 1,500 years and will improve the fertility of the land.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mr. Chyz?

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MR. CHYZ: Yeah. George. Don't worry about the last name. George is fine. Nobody can pronounce the last name.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Will you pronounce it for me?

MR. CHYZ: Chyz.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chyz.

MR. CHYZ: Yeah. It's the name of a bird in Ukrainian.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Oh, how nice. Did...okay. So we actually don't have control over minimum wage as the Council. We do have some...

MR. CHYZ: Every county can set a minimum wage.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's State jurisdiction, but we do --

MR. CHYZ: Counties and cities do it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --we do have some control over our County employees.

MR. CHYZ: No, counties and cities do it all the time. In Oakland County, where Seattle is, they have their own minimum, separate from the state.

MS. DeNAIE *(from the gallery)*: Different states.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. CHYZ: Oh, you're saying that this state doesn't allow that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

MR. CHYZ: Ah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's in our Constitution or Statutes.

MR. CHYZ: Okay. I understand.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So it's not a power that was given to our counties in Hawaii.

MR. CHYZ: Oh, okay.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then did you see the proposed...my proposed tax rate? I won't say that it was anyone else's.

MR. CHYZ: No, I haven't.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go check it out.

MR. CHYZ: What's that? Tax for property tax?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. CHYZ: So you are looking at doing a graded...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I've proposed an increase on some.

MR. CHYZ: That's great. Well, thank you very much for doing that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So if you want to see it and, you know, provide testimony on it...

MR. CHYZ: Yeah, I would like to, and I'd love to comment on it. I'll look at it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. It's on the website.

MR. CHYZ: How do I get to look at it?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our staff can direct you.

MR. CHYZ: Okay. I'll go talk to them. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thanks, Mr. Chyz.

MR. CHYZ: And thank you all so much for being here and giving us an opportunity to share.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is James Fleming. The next testifier is—and apologies for this in advance—Angelo Sanvidotto, to be followed by Adam Radford.

MR. SANVIDOTTO: Hello. My name is Angelo Sanvidotto. Thank you all for being here still. Angelo Sanvidotto on behalf of Haiku Head Start. And I would like to let everyone know as few people have said this evening, it's incredibly important to start as the youngest age you possibly can to ensure our children the best chance they have when entering into kindergarten and everything after that. But in all honesty, it's they're really meant for the parents whether it's a single mother or a single father or somebody, family that has either one income that can go to two incomes. Be nice to have the children that

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were born here to be able to continue to live here. And if single-income families can't get to second income families then it's just going to be difficult for the children. And I'm guessing most of the kindergarten teachers will tell you that they could tell the difference between somebody who's already been in a Head Start program entering into kindergarten, what a significant difference in their behavior, their structure, their willingness to get up, it's just emotionally I think much better for the children to already have that while entering kindergarten. I think it's just easier for the teachers as well through that. And, of course, the parents. So I'll let you guys go ahead and go home, have a safe night, thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Adam Radford on behalf of Maui Invasive Species Committee to be followed by Lynn Rasmussen.

MR. RADFORD: Aloha, Chair and Members. Good to see you again. So tonight, as promised, I wanted to talk briefly about coqui frog. And so when we went into this budget session, we were advocating for a \$4 million allocation for coqui frog, in particular. And part of our hope was that the State would step up and provide at least a one-to-one match. And it looks like they are actually going to provide pretty significant funding towards coqui, just under a million. So not quite what we were hoping for in terms of the match, but still pretty significant. So the main point I wanted to make tonight, and again I'll be seeing you in the very near future to discuss this more. But is...just talking about like what that level of funding even as it's proposed now, which we're very appreciative of what's in the proposed budget, but of course could use more and we would expedite the project and move things a lot faster, a lot lot faster. But just for perspective, that amount of money, like about \$3 million, let's say, was our whole budget last year. And so I just wanted to be clear that for us to be, you know, make good use of the funds, it's going to take us the whole time to continue to ramp up. And we're looking at least a four to five-year project with declining costs after that. And so that's just the reality of our own resources that we currently have to manage a project like this. And we can certainly can do it and we're completely confident, but I just wanted to be clear about that point. And the other is that, in our current baseyard, we don't have longevity. We're basically renters and I wanted to come to you and put this on your radar because this might be somewhere where you could help us. And with the previous administration, we were in discussions about potentially utilizing County land as another baseyard, which we will need if we proceed with this project. And, as you've heard tonight, I very much think we should. What that level of funding will allow us to do is fully implement a plan we developed in 2016 when the then Council stepped up and said, hey, we want to give you \$1.2 million to try to address this problem. That being said, funding's never been adequate. The level of funding we're talking about now is adequate and we could fully implement a plan that would involve community, as you've heard from tonight. That, we want to increase basically tenfold. We want to have community active all throughout the residential areas of Maliko, because without the community involvement, I actually feel like we will not be successful. So we want to put significant resources towards that plus a multicrew approach to the work where we have

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people working systematically through gulches and areas where residents don't really want to go or can't go 'cause of access or what have you. We also want to have a crew that's doing a lot of habitat removal, maintenance, and other crews that are like putting out spot fires, and then there's also all the other places on Maui...I'll, I think, conclude with a couple comments about being successful, which I believe I mentioned in the past. So we've had 29 places on Maui with lots of frogs. There's only ten of them left. Of those ten, really only two have frogs, 'cause we monitor the sites for a year from the date that we hear the last coqui frog. So we've been incredibly successful and that's not even mentioning all the random single frogs we've picked off all over Maui in every one of your districts. And so I just want to thank you for your time and support. And also I will reiterate that, yes, the children are a huge focus for us and definitely some...we put a lot of energy and time into trying to educate them and then employ them.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question from Member Paltin and Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if the other locations...so if you get the 2.5 million, or 3 million, or 4 million, you need another location in addition to the funding?

MR. RADFORD: We may. I mean we're looking at different options for that. But one thing we've always tried to do is keep our rent really low, because we just never felt like that was the best use of the different funding sources we get. And so we could...we do have an option for a facility that we could rent, but we would prefer to not have that cost. And so the property we're on now is a UH CTAHR property. And so that might be something that you could help us in discussions with CTAHR about a longer-term lease so we could put in...we've actually have talked with them in the past about putting in additional resources that I think would actually benefit the facility, but they have not committed to a long-term lease.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that's your ideal location, at the CTAHR site?

MR. RADFORD: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In Central Maui?

MR. RADFORD: No, it's Upcountry on Piipolo Road.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

MR. RADFORD: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo Member Paltin. Member Kama?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So you don't have to come up with a plan tonight, 'cause we're going to see you tomorrow, but do you have that written plan that spells out what and how you're going to...and I'm looking at the word eradicate more than I am monitoring, because I understand management and I understand monitoring, but eradication's what I'm looking for. So do you have a plan or will you have a plan that says that?

MR. RADFORD: Yeah, I have it right here.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. RADFORD: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. So you're sending us the plan tomorrow?

MR. RADFORD: Yes. I can send it tomorrow.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, great.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Mahalo for coming again.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah. Thank you all for all of your hard work.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second time today.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Ms. Stewart?

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Lynn Rasmussen to be followed by Nikhilananda.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And how many more testifiers do we have after that?

MS. STEWART: And then after that one would be our final testifier for the night.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, cool. Thank you.

MS. RASMUSSEN: Hi there. Thank you for staying so late. I could be talking about the potholes. I mean Makawao, it's been a problem, you know that. I mean everybody's talking about the potholes. I could be talking about Ka Hale A Ke Ola, because I'm on the board and it's close to my heart, the homeless situation, and I want you to look at your inbox when the new newsletter comes 'cause we're putting out a quarterly one and

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the work that's being done is amazing. Monique Yamashita is just a powerhouse. And I mean we're getting...we're putting together now the first permanent supportive housing on the island. There's going to be a, pretty soon, there's going to be a van for Kihei and it's going to mean that serious housing support's going to be in Kihei, all that. But that's not what I'm testifying about tonight. What I'm testifying tonight about is coqui frogs because it's an economic disaster. On Saturday, a lot of people are going to be driving from Haiku to Hana in their trucks. And I want you to know if you haven't been to the Big Island, all you have to do, Adam Radford told us this at a meeting five years ago, if you want to know what they sound like, call Taco Bell in Hilo and make an order, you can't. I mean it's just unbelievable. Fire ants, people can't walk on the beaches. Now, we're looking at...they asked for \$4 million. Five years ago, he said...when he talked at our rotary club, we said, what would it take for eradication? Just eradication. Because look at all the money we're spending every year on this, year after year, and it's more every year. And he said \$10 million. And I went, okay. Because we live on Baldwin Avenue around the corner from Maliko Gulch. Maliko Gulch, we're right off Kaluanui Road. Maliko, that's ground zero, that's where it started, right, the nursery over there, Kokomo. Now, the only reason why it's not absolutely everywhere is because of MISC and because of those people in Maliko Gulch and then the reason why it is some places is because there were some uncommitted people in Maliko Gulch and then it just took off. Now what we need is MISC yeah, but a whole...it needs to be a whole, for fire ants and for this, an entire community action project. It has such huge lifestyle and economic...I mean we could be talking about homelessness and potholes until, you know, but we won't have the money for it and we won't even want to live here anymore. The stress of it. When I walked...Susun White, I said, I talked to her outside, you know, I helped start Paia Youth Center, I've known her for 25 years. I said I'm talking about coquis tonight. She said, oh, thank God. She just got from the Big Island. She said they couldn't talk over dinner with their friends in the house. Her husband didn't sleep for four nights, they were so bad. This is not...what I'm trying to say is MISC isn't asking for enough. We're not providing enough. And if we did it in one big amount, it'd save us a fortune all the way out, economically and everything else. So I'd really would like people to think about that. I think it's a money saver.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Kama has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. I feel the same way you do; and that's why I told Adam, what does it take to eradicate? I want an eradication plan. And if it takes 10 million, let's just do it.

MS. RASMUSSEN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And if it takes 1,000 people to get into the gulch, then let's do it.

MS. RASMUSSEN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But come up with a great plan that we can all drink to and go do it. Thank you.

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MS. RASMUSSEN: They've had a plan for years. He's had a plan for years. They have lines for these . . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Rasmussen –

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --will you please speak on the mic for the record?

MS. RASMUSSEN: Sorry. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MS. RASMUSSEN: They have...if you've seen the plan or seen part of it, they have, like, lines for running down Maliko Gulch for running the citric acid. I mean it's an amazing system. They know...these guys, these young guys, climb down into that gulch, they repel down. You know, below Sid and Morris' house, if you drive down Maliko Gulch, if you go, you know, if you make a left onto that dirt road, it's a private road, and it follows the gulch down, you'll get to the end of it at Sid and Morris' house. Right beyond there is a 90-foot waterfall. Now those guys have been all over down there. I mean it's unimaginable what it's like down there, and that's ground zero, that's where they are. But with the money, it's manpower and it's the stuff. And we need to do it. The Big Island is just...I mean the fire ants, the amount of money they spend every year on those beaches, just to be able to walk, I mean it's not even...if we don't spend it, we're going to be spending it the other end, so...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Kama. Mahalo, Ms. Rasmussen for your testimony. Ms. Stewart, our last two testifiers.

MS. STEWART: The next testifier is Nikhilananda, followed by Lucienne de Naie...de Naie, apologies.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: It's really nice seeing you all here. Congratulations to those of you who I haven't seen yet, so...but before I start, I want to incorporate what a whole bunch of people have testified tonight 'cause I bring every year for twenty-plus years been bringing my laundry list. And so I'm really glad people talked about the coqui frogs. 'Cause I also been to Big Island and you cannot talk to people. So, first of all, we'll start out, please institute a residential, curbside recycling system, charging per container for waste and garbage. It's being done in other places around the country - Montgomery County, Maryland where I grew up. Build a few material reclamation facilities around Maui County where people don't put stuff in the dump or the landfill, people can reuse it – rebar, two-by-fours, et cetera. One day a week, a free drop off at the landfill. Additional invasive species funding, especially again, for the coqui frog. Expand the

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Maui Bus system including a Makawao, Paia, Haiku shuttle route. Retire the gas buses and purchase electric buses to replace them. Expand the tiered property taxes. And I'm really glad George talked about that because I've been talking about it for years and Comet used to come and talk about that. A tiered system, it's not sticking it to people. Make it equal, people that have more expensive houses, blah, blah, blah. Maintain the County park bathrooms including keeping them all open 24/7. When they're closed, what do you think people are going to do when they have to use them? Establish aloha zones for homeless with various social services and personal hygiene facilities. Unlock the Maui County beach park gates, allow access 24/7. It's reprehensible we can't go to beaches after hours. Establish a subcommittee to review possibly instituting a single-member, district County Council system. Perhaps expanding the County Council to 11 members. Expand access for allowing remote public testimony to Maui County Council and various committee hearings. Alter seating in the Maui County Council Chambers so Councilmembers do not have their backs to the community, just like you're doing right here tonight. Have more Maui County Council hearings out in the community in the evening so more residents can attend and testify. Support and work with the State to make Election Day a holiday while also instituting a ranked-choice voting election system; that's also happening around the country now. Expand the brightly flashing lights on major road crosswalks, it saves lives. Keep expanding and funding pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian trails and paths. Institute a moratorium on approving the funding and building of high-end ag subdivisions while simultaneously building more affordable rental units and homes for purchase. Change our zoning laws to allow building up a couple of stories for rentals purchase where appropriate with residential facilities upstairs and commercial facilities on the first ground floor. Support additional funding for affordable land trust. Expand plus additional County parking lots in all of the small towns and regions of Maui County. I'm going to talk as fast as I can to get this done. It's not very many more. Congrats on putting up the ahupua'a moku signs. Now let's have more signage in both Hawaiian and English. Add funding and personnel to the one-person County Department of Agriculture. And continue funding, which I heard tonight, for the FAM Program. Continue using non-toxic, organic weed spraying and phase out all uses of poisonous weed-control items.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Last one, Nik.

NIKHILANANDA: Three more.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

NIKHILANANDA: Decrease the funding...I thought I was going to be last, but we have somebody else. You've saved the best to last. Okay. Continue using non-toxic weed spraying and dah, dah, dah, so I said. Decrease the funding for the small Maui County Visitors Bureau and put those funds into social services provided by the County. Keep pushing and supporting for both the Paia and Lahaina alternative route projects. Replace all anti-cannabis police funding and put those monies into social services and/or expand anti-cockfighting efforts. Consider turning Market Street into a pedestrian-only, vehicle-free space. And finally...

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's more than three. You have a question over here.

NIKHILANANDA: Oh, while I'm testifying?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I'm going to ask you to send us your laundry list because...

NIKHILANANDA: It's the last one, and Mike Molina knows what I'm going to bring up. I saved it to last. So if you want to ask the question first?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

NIKHILANANDA: Okay. So ready? Okay. And finally, when I first came before this Council for this request, I did not have to wear glasses, I had hair on the top of my head, and it was brown, twenty-seven years ago. Since 1992, I have been requesting a couple of tennis courts to be built at the fourth Marine Park on Kokomo Road in Haiku. There is plenty of space without taking away from other ballfields. And, though people mention Paia where we have property now, it's less windy in Haiku. Thank you for your time. Congratulations to those of you that are sitting there, and it's really a privilege and an honor to be testifying in front of you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

NIKHILANANDA: Now I will take questions. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was saying, I can do something for you right now. Election Day is a holiday.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He means for primaries I think.

NIKHILANANDA: In the state of Hawaii, it's now a holiday?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

NIKHILANANDA: That's the first thing that I didn't know. I can't believe it. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Congratulations.

NIKHILANANDA: And Tuesday, Tuesday in November, it's a holiday?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Yes.

NIKHILANANDA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Glad I could help.

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NIKHILANANDA: Thank you. That's why you're sitting there and I'm over here. Thank you very, very much. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Solution...

NIKHILANANDA: Is that it? Good. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, so please send us your laundry list. Do you have the e-mail address to send it to?

NIKHILANANDA: Yes, of course I do. I'm in Huelo and I have electricity, so I will put it together for you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or you can give your hard copy to staff and then they'll upload it to the website for all of us.

NIKHILANANDA: Oh, you're so helpful. It's so good seeing you guys there. Congratulations, really.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Our last testifier, Lucienne de Naie.

MS. de NAIE: Aloha and welcome to Haiku and Paia. I'm testifying on behalf of the Haiku Community Association. My name is Lucienne de Naie. Really appreciate all the good stuff that's been happening in our district this last budget session. And would like to support some of the things that we've heard here tonight, there are community priorities as well. The paving of Holomua Road, yes, what a great shortcut. MISC, Maui Invasive Species Council [*sic*], yes. Give them as much funding as you can possibly get, because we want them to work with our community. We have people in our community that want to work with them, but they need more staff and more equipment to spread around, so please. The comfort station at the Haiku Community Center, I see it's in the Mayor's Budget, that's wonderful. Really want to support the idea that the plan and build is in the same phase; that would just be great, you know, to like not, oh, well here's the plan phase and then two years from now, oh, here's the build phase. Let's get er done. The Paia bypass, this is a good year to think about what we're going to do now that we're not going to do the little mini thing that didn't go anywhere. I know you guys are looking for creative solutions for how we can come up with the funding and get the right route and then move forward on it so we're not waiting another 25 years. I've been going to meetings on that since the 90s. And last, but not least, the Haiku Fire Station. We're at an impasse there with the current site. I think we need to bite the bullet, look for another site. Maybe that site would be great for green waste, who knows, the existing site. But we need to have a fire station in Haiku. It's one of the fastest-growing areas in our community. So mahalo for your time and we'll see you all down at the County Council meetings.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question for you. Member Molina?

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thanks, Lucienne. Not a question, but just to let you know, I've requested an additional 100,000 for the study to look at other sites for the Haiku Fire...I would really want your support. The Members are still considering it. So if you could come out and get the community out there to support that, it would be really helpful.

MS. de NAIE: Alright. We will ask people to come and support that. Now I know what our booth at the Ho`olaule`a will be like. And you're all invited to the Haiku Ho`olaule`a coming up, the 27th of this month at the community center. So great music, great food, great people. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. de Naie for your testimony this evening. Okay. Did anyone sneak a sign up for testimony?

MS. STEWART: There are no other –

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Alright.

MS. STEWART: --persons signed up to testify, Madam Chair.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: rh).

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo...okay. It is 9:40 on April 11th and mahalo, everyone, for sticking it out all the way through to the end and for sharing mana`o. Member Molina, did you want to say anything in closing?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, thank you very much, everyone, and appreciate your mana`o. And during the budget season at the County building, you can come from 9:00 and still testify even more if you want. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And so it's 9:40 and the Economic Development and Budget Committee is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 9:40 p.m.

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APPROVED:



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

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Transcribed by: Rayna Yap