

# **WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**February 3, 2020**

**Council Chamber, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor**

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

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama (out 4:06 p.m., in 4:22 p.m.)  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez (in 1:40 p.m., out 4:27 p.m.)  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Riki Hokama  
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King

**STAFF:** Chester Carson, Legislative Analyst  
Rayna Yap, Committee Secretary  
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)  
Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lanai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)  
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, Hana Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)

**ADMIN.:** Jeffrey Pearson, Director, Department of Water Supply  
Eva Blumenstein, Planning Program Manager, Department of Water Supply  
Jordan Molina, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works  
Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Adam Radford, Maui Invasive Species Committee (WIT-13)  
Arthur Medeiros, Auwahi Forest Restoration Project (WIT-13)  
Andrea Buckman, Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership (WIT-13)  
Chawn Villalon, Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration (WIT-13)  
Jordan Jokiel, Haleakala Ranch (WIT-13)  
Ed Misaki, East Molokai Watershed Partnership; The Nature Conservancy, Molokai (WIT-13)

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Alison Cohan, The Nature Conservancy (WIT-13)  
Zandra Amaral-Crouse (WIT-13, WIT-69)  
Kamalani Pahukoa, Hana Council Office (via telephone  
conference bridge) (WIT-13)  
(5) additional attendees

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good afternoon. Welcome to the Water, Infrastructure, and Transportation Committee. It's now 1:35 p.m. And welcome, everyone who's here. Thank you very much. I have Mr. Sinenci from Hana.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha auinala, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha, thank you. Mr. Molina from my neighborhood.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good after-morning [*sic*], Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good afternoon. Tamara Paltin from Lahaina.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha awakea, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha, and Ms. Tasha Kama from Kahului.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Welcome, everybody. Today is actually our second meeting of this Committee and . . . or third meeting of this Committee. Appreciate all of you being here. And we have testifiers who will be testifying. Besides our Councilmembers, we also have Jeff Pearson in the Chambers. Thank you for being here. He's going to be listening in. Eva Blumenstein who is the Program Manager for the Water Department. Thank you for writing the Water Use and Development Plan and having all the connections with the watersheds today, so appreciate you. I have Jen Oana from Corp. Counsel. Thank you for being here. Later, we will have Public Works, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Jordan Molina . . . or Jordan. I think they were also . . . one of 'em was going to Honolulu to testify at the Legislature, so I don't know if we're going to have both of 'em. Chester Carson, my Legislative Analyst; and Rayna Yap, our Secretary; and then our District Offices are present. Today we have two items on our agenda. And we're going to do the WIT-13, Status of Grants Under Department of Water Supply and Benchmarks for Grantee Performances. And as well as WIT-69, which is, we're going to have Operational and Budgetary Review of the Department of Public Works.

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we'll start with public testimony. Members have . . . people have signed up. And our first testifier is Adam Radford from MISC. Thank you, Adam. And next would be Dr. Art Medeiros from Auwahi Forest Restoration Project. Nice to see you, Adam.

MR. RADFORD: You as well. Thank you, Chair. And good to see you, Members. Thanks for the opportunity, as always, to testify today. And I just want to recognize the incredible group of people in the gallery today. And it really speaks to how environmental conservation on Maui, we're really a hui. We really, like, team up, collaborate, and share our resources to get the job done. And our goal with these grants that are being discussed today, Department of Water Supply grants, they are for the vision of protecting a viable water resource in perpetuity. And so for my project that is what we do. And so, what we do is remove the worst of the worst invasive species like Miconia that's well known to be a watershed degrader throughout the Pacific and, like, for example, just for plants in the last County fiscal year, we removed over 30,000 plants from the watershed. We also surveyed over 20,000 acres . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait one second --

MR. RADFORD: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: --before you continue. I should have made this announcement. In the last meeting where we had the Department of Water Supply presented, and then the watersheds came and did, you know, like, what you're doing now. So, today we're not going to have the corresponding watersheds, I mean, the corresponding aquifers. So, I'm asking if you would like to have up to five minutes to testify. All of you can have up to five minutes to testify. Whereas in the previous meeting the Department helped with the presentation. So, you can have . . . testify up to five minutes, and then the Members will have questions for you. But I wanted to extend the time just so that you can say more about the good work that all of you do. Thank you.

MR. RADFORD: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry to bother you.

MR. RADFORD: No, no. I'll do my best. So, with our Department of Water Supply grants, as I mentioned, I believe it's really focused on plant work. And the other is that it's focused on boots on the ground. It's focused on just people working to remove invasive plants out of our Makawao office, which kind of covers Central Maui and West Maui. It's out of our Hana office, which is East Maui, and they're tasked again mainly with Miconia control. And also on Molokai. And Molokai, I want to highlight them, because they are the early detection, rapid response entity on the island. There is really not a Department of Ag presence. There's really not other resources that are typically used to identify new species. So, they're the go-to for plants and they typically work on over 30-some different plants a year. And so, they're a pretty incredible resource for pretty low cost when it comes to the grand scheme of things.

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Yeah, the other thing I wanted to raise, and I'm sorry, I wasn't actually prepared for a full five-minutes, but, anyway, is that what we're taking over more and more, although there's some issues with the label on it, is herbicide ballistic technology. Because I think many of you remember Dr. James Leary who developed that technology and he is now in Florida. So, he's moved on and so MISC has been asked to really lead the charge on that and we're working through some regulatory issues with the State to be able to use that again, but just want to highlight it because it is a Department of Water Supply funded project and one that we're looking at taking on more as we go into the future. And so if you're not familiar with herbicide ballistic technology that's the paintball application where it has infused herbicide in the paintballs. And so you can like essentially shoot the plant from a helicopter and what that does for us, which was a huge breakthrough, was it cut down travel time by half. Because, historically, we would go out and look for plants, find them, mark them on a GPS unit, and then we would go back and treat them with a different methodology. Now with this, it's like real-time application. Where you go out, you look for the plant, and you control it. And so I ask for continued awareness and support of herbicide ballistic technology work going forward, and it also is not just for MISC doing Miconia work but also for strawberry guava, for West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership for Mt. Kahalawai and others. So, there's a lot of applications there so, I guess, I'll just conclude with that and just say in short, again, I always appreciate your ongoing advocacy for invasive species management throughout Maui Nui and just want to be clear that for how this fits in for MISC, that this is like plant work only to preserve our watersheds. And so, if you recall, like, a lot of our funding in the last year was, you know, very specific. It was like coqui frog, little fire ant, and then a small amount for Miconia and other species. And we very much appreciate that, but this allows us to really protect the upper elevation watershed areas and so would like to see you continue that support. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excellent. Thank you. Welcome, Keani from Molokai, to the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Anybody...oh, Shane has questions.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Adam, for being here today. You know, I just wanted to brought up the issue about, you know, because this is a grant process, a lot of the times, so it's, the job is seasonal, so, and it just depends on more grants coming in and coming out. So, a lot of the times these grants people are either have to be laid off before more funding is being . . . so sometimes it's hard to fill some of these positions because it's not something regular or for employees that have families. I don't know if they cover a lot of the medical benefits and those type of things. Can you, is that an issue or a challenge for MISC?

MR. RADFORD: So, you're correct in your characterization of some of the work being seasonal. That's absolutely true. But we typically, we don't really ramp up and then lay people off. We've actually never laid anyone off since we started in 2001. And so, what we often do is, if we bring people in for pushes, what happens is other people

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leave and we'll roll them into regular full-time positions. And so, that would have all the benefits like healthcare, vacation, everything that goes with working for the University of Hawaii. So, yeah, our biggest challenge, which I think you're alluding to, is getting people that want to do the work. Like, we have some great people in the audience that have worked for MISC in the past that, you know, put a lot of time in both during the day and late into the night and that's not for everyone. And, so, we are . . . my current message about the hiring part is like we are hiring. Like if all of you could help us reach people that would be really helpful because it's hard especially in like your district and others, and I understand that the process is nuanced and complicated because we're employees under the University of Hawaii, and so when you look at it, you'd go online and it's like, it's very electronic format that's kind of confusing and so we're looking at doing, like, job fair in Hana, that we spoke about and in other areas to try walk people through the process. So that's our biggest challenge is getting people in the door. It's not keeping them. Like, I feel, like, we're a very good employer once we get them in, but it's just getting them in the door. So, thank you for your question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody else have any questions? So, MISC, through the Department of Water Supply, asked for 260,000 and is going to be awarded 200...is estimated 260. These are what my notes say and you can correct me if . . . yeah, it's correct. Okay. So, thank you very much. Yes? Oh, hi, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I had a question about the herbicide ballistic. Is that appropriate for all the different types of plants or is that specific to Miconia or . . .

MR. RADFORD: So, great question. It's specific to woody plants. And so, it's only technically labeled though for two plants, and that's Miconia and strawberry guava. It would work on other, like, woody plants, but it's not allowed to be used that way in Hawaii, so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if you use it on strawberry guava, is it, like, when it's not fruiting or, like, if the seed comes off of the . . . if the fruit comes out and the seed, somebody eats the seed and then they expel it at another time. Isn't that going to grow up another thing or when you ballistic the strawberry guava it's going to just not make the seeds fertile or . . .

MR. RADFORD: No, the seeds would still be fertile for some time. But it, yeah, that's a good question. It would, yeah, ultimately it will kill the plant, but the seeds are still viable for probably at least a month. And I mean, you know, it's different types of strawberry guava. They're kind of fruiting almost all the time so the goal with it is to really hit the base of the plant and kill it as fast as possible, but that product that's used does take some time to work on strawberry guava.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, the prevalence of strawberry guava throughout the island, is the goal to, like, eradicate it completely or just contain it, or like . . .

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MR. RADFORD: No, so that's another really good question. So, I want to be clear that, like, the Maui Invasive Species Committee, we don't even work on strawberry guava. Other partners that are here today do work on strawberry guava and their goal is to just try to draw the line in terms of elevation to keep it from impacting the upper elevation forest. And so, it's basically just holding the line.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And, so you guys only use the herbicide ballistic technology for Miconia?

MR. RADFORD: Yes. My project only uses it for Miconia.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: And it's highly effective.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah, thank you for your questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for your questions. Thank you very much. And nice to see you.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah, thank you as always, Chair and Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good to see you here. Next speaker is Dr. Art Medeiros with the Auwahi Forest Restoration Project and Auwahi Forest Restoration has a \$141,000 grant for the watershed.

MR. MEDEIROS: Good afternoon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good afternoon.

MR. MEDEIROS: So, I am Arthur Medeiros. Let me introduce myself. I had to do the math today just from coming to speak sometimes. I did terrible math about how long you've been in the profession. So, I've been in the profession for 41 years. Moved here 41 years ago to try to study native species and that . . . because I was working for a National Park, that quickly developed into, could we do anything about what was happening in Hawaii, which is this erosion? I don't know if you know, but just since, almost since contact, since humans have contacted Hawaii our native biota has been fading and I think some people wonder is it going to stop at all? So, that's kind of what I've dedicated my career to. I'm just kind of going to go generally, I think it, maybe a few general comments. I thought this is . . . our planet is water based and, but of all the water that is available, 97 percent of it is saltwater, only 3 percent of it is freshwater, and of the freshwater 3 percent, only 1 percent is unavailable to humans, it's like locked up in places. One percent is atmosphere. Only 1 percent of all the water is available to all humans. And that includes all the polluted waters in the world. I would throw in with the other fact is that by 2050 now it is estimated, United

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Nations is estimating, that human population is going to reach about 10.1 billion. Ten point one billion is thought to be the carrying capacity of the planet, especially in terms of water resources. Because we really haven't figured out a way to kind of shortcut the water resource business. It is kind of like plug it in and just make more. Desalinization has kind of been abandoned in many places. So, water is...I'll often say this is called there's is no room in the inn at 2050. And a lot of people are calling now water the gold of the future. Okay. We move to Hawaii. And I think the one thing I would tell you that if you had to remember is just how much Hawaii is in trouble. If I had a map, I always show the same map. It shows what, where native plants are today. And it's just tiny little pukas, you know, mostly, you know, starts at 1,000 feet or something like that on the windward slopes. These tiny little areas, and these areas are each shrinking and where they're not being shrinking, they are being invaded and being degraded by the very plants we're talking about. I think that's the big thing. And it's not just a little thing. I think for people from other places . . . I brought some Australian friends here and they were saying, you know, they said, there used to be forest here? I mean they saw far trees in the distance. They said man if this was in Australia this would be like a national disaster. You know, why isn't anybody, why didn't I hear about this when I came on the island? So, I would just say that this time, watershed failing is at a time when climate change, and we all know climate change is happening, and that unprecedented human population levels are putting real stressors on Maui and Maui is not getting any bigger, you know, and not getting any more natural resources. You know, recently I wanted to go to Easter Island so I did some investigation of Easter Island and, you know, when I thought about it, in fact, a lot of the species that have disappeared off Easter Island are the very same species that have disappeared from Hawaii. The same genus, same genera. Very similar. When I looked at the difference between Maui and Easter Island, the main difference is that Maui has a windward side. You know, because if you're looking at the loss of biota that happened on the leeward side it's just like Easter Island, you know, which is kind of, like, held up to the world as a place that's, oh my God, what happened here? So, I guess the question is, you know, when we come down to times like this, what are we supposed to do, you know? And so, I can only tell you, I mean, even as politicians, right, I don't have your jobs. But if I had your jobs that's what I would be wondering is, what is the ethical, the moral response at a time like this? You know I don't think anybody has ever faced this before. And I don't think people realize it. People still use water. They are still watering lawns and throwing water around and just by necessity that attitude will change over the decades. So, I can just tell you what we're doing at Auwahi. Okay. So, we gave you a little handout and that handout showed a little green postage stamp. So that's, kind of, what I, kind of, developed in my career was wondering, can we do anything about this? Can we kind of put the brakes on things, reverse them, and bring them back? And it's still a question that is being asked all over the world. Some people say you can't. But we've tried it. And we've gotten some pretty good results, but, I think, like, I wanted to say this, and maybe I'll read this. Hydrology research at Auwahi provides empirical evidence. Empirical evidence is, like, it's data based, that links ecological restoration with the restoration of hydrological cycles. I'll probably say that again. The empirical evidence that links ecological restoration, bringing back a forest with the restoration of hydrologic cycles. Because people don't even know if you can bring back forests. But

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if you can, does it make any difference? So, little Auwahi Project on Maui is actually one of the very few projects in the whole world that's demonstrated that because we kind of . . . right next to it we have fields, that, like, grass fields that use to be the same so we can test their hydrologic function compared to these areas that we're bringing up. Basically the water goes into our forests, whereas outside in the grass the water is prevented from going into the aquifer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Five minutes.

MR. MEDEIROS: I'm sorry?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Five minutes.

MR. MEDEIROS: That's my five minutes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah so do you want --

MR. MEDEIROS: Oh, e kala mai.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: --to wrap up?

MR. MEDEIROS: I will wrap up then. Boy, I hardly got anywhere here. But I will say that the last part was that what I found at Auwahi is what we've learned at Auwahi is, okay...a line from one of my New Zealand heroes He said, at this point in the degradation of nature, the last fragments are unimportant compared to the hearts and minds of people. Anybody who hears me talk, hears me say that, because it's what I discovered in my career, is that nature is failing. But at this point, the most important thing is to convince people, is to kind of . . . and I tell people to develop a community of experts because when people know, when people know about things, when they know what can be done, then I actually trust everybody. I trust the voters a lot more when they're informed. So, that's what, kind of what Auwahi does. Is we try to provide, we provided thousands and thousands a trip, but 2,000 separate residents have planted trees at Auwahi. I would like to make that more but we only have a few trucks. But it's this powerful experience. I think people go away thinking wow, I understand the issue now. And so, that's what our little project brings probably besides for our little things of hydrology and developing technology is trying to, kind of, convince people, convince people, letting people see the evidence with their own eyes. Okay. Sorry for the extra time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, I always like hearing what you have to say.

MR. MEDEIROS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I know that your project is in the Ulupalakua Ranch areas. Is that correct?

MR. MEDEIROS: Yeah.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: And do you still do volunteer excursions? I think you said you had 2,000 . . .

MR. MEDEIROS: Absolutely. Yeah. We're, our trucks have been in hiatus. We moved out of the University of Hawaii. The University of Hawaii tried to keep our trucks. Some of the groups here helped get them back. So, we just got our trucks back after 144 days, so we'll be doing them every other week now. And so, that's our big deal. That's what we do best, is people in the mountains. So, if you guys ever want to come to the mountains you should just give me a call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it's amazing project that you have. I know the Erdman's are grateful for the years you've put in.

MR. MEDEIROS: We're grateful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else have questions for Dr. Medeiros? Tamara Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Dr. Medeiros for your work. I was noticing like how you said it's a postage sized stamp and I was wondering how much more we would need to put in to make it like rapidly expand to double, triple the size. If you think that's possible?

MR. MEDEIROS: Oh, it's definitely possible. I just think the money is the limiting factor, to be honest. Restoration is expensive and if you try to go too fast I think you get a product that's not very durable. Actually I've tried to go really, a little bit slower with my projects because I think a lot of people kind of go by the acre and they really want to . . . but then as soon as there's a hurricane it's going to knock everything down and you kind of get started to square one. So, I've tried to build what people call ecological resilience into my forests, right? That they kind of have so many tree species that if they do get hit by a hurricane, so it's expensive stuff. Paul Simon just gave some money that we're going to try to use to buy a small little section left. But, you know, it is expensive. That's what I'll say. I don't want to candy coat that. But I think an investment like that, to me, it's a national investment. I don't . . . my personal self is that I don't really think the County of Maui is really forward for taking care of it, but that's a national responsibility, is to take care of your forests, in my opinion as a biologist. Not only for what they bring for native plants and animals for the culture but just, you don't have to care about that. All you have to do is want to make money and you should want to keep the forests around.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you think by growing slower and like that, this is a sustainable model that can continue on for many years?

MR. MEDEIROS: I think my, our model is sustainable. I would just have to say it's the goal. My goal is to create durable native forests, habitat, and I think if that's the goal then we can reach that. Every system is different so I don't want to generalize. You know sometimes koa acts different than what we have, acts different than ohia. You know,

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so I don't want, I wouldn't want to make a conclusion, I'm trying to tell you the simple story. But that's probably what I would say.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. MEDEIROS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions, Member, no?

MR. MEDEIROS: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, Dr. Medeiros.

MR. MEDEIROS: Take care.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier is Andrea, is it Buckman, and then Chawn K. Villalon after that, followed by Jordan Jokiel. Cool name. Nice seeing you, Andrea.

MS. BUCKMAN: Nice to see you too. Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you so much for the opportunity to come and share with you some of our work and to provide some answers to any questions you have. We've been really fortunate. We've been recipients of Department of Water Supply funding since 2006. The partnership was formed in 2003. So, thanks to that consistency and that dedication, we've been able to increase the acres that we're actively managing from less than 500 to over 19,000 in that time. So, we still have a long ways to go. We have over 45,000 acres dedicated to long-term conservation within the Partnership. I gave a little summary of some of our work and some of the projects that we're working on that are funded by DWS and we've also gotten a little bit of funding from OED this year to help us increase our operational capacity with a new base yard. We have five ranches that we work with that gives a really exciting opportunity to learn from land management from a different perspective. We are pretty excited about some of things we're doing right now. Trying to use domesticated animal herds after the feral animals are removed, using domestic animals to try to graze grasses and invasive trees and help reduce our herbicide costs, our exposure to staff in the environment. So, we'll see how that goes. That's happening at both Kaupo Ranch and Haleakala Ranch. We've had some growing pains and we are now in a state where I feel really happy about where we're at. Some of my crew members are here today. I have three members of my field crew here. We still need to grow a lot more. With all the work that we're doing I think we should triple our field staff. I'd like to have a natural resource manager and an outreach person. Because we have increased, like I've said, we've gotten a lot of success in getting CIP funding for fencing and that's not necessarily proportionate with the funding that comes with management. So, we're looking at continued growing and continue the positive results we've been seeing. A lot of that positivity comes from the great partners that we have in the conservation world and also in the community. We work with a lot of local school groups, different cultural groups, the Hui o Wa'a Kaulua, Kamehameha Schools, Montessori School of Maui. Haleakala Ranch hosts a program annually called Ag in the Classroom where we work with, I

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think it's almost 3,000 Maui students, to make seed balls. So, next week I believe we scheduled time to distribute hundreds of thousands of native seeds from the helicopter that were made by those children. That's an exciting way we can get kids involved who can't come into the forest. We're also working on what . . . freshwater security. That's a big part of what we do, right? We're a watershed partnership so, although, we don't work in a lot of the areas right now that are beneficiaries of County water systems, that's going to be increasing in the coming year with the acquisition of Kamehamenui and expansion of restoration work at Haleakala Ranch. Some of the water research that we're working is fog drip capture at Kahikinui. We have a \$100,000 grant from DHHL that actually went to Ka Ohana o Kahikinui, but we're working with Dr. Juvik there to help provide a demonstration project that we hope will be able to show data and costs where we can supplement Maui's water system, supplement our rural economic areas, and perhaps provide sustainable freshwater for our plantings in the mountain with fog drip capture that's passive and consistently available. We have serious challenges. We have, you know, fire. This year was horrible for leeward Haleakala and West Maui. So, we've built upon the templates that Ed folks and Chris have used with the West Maui Fire Task Force and the Molokai Fire Task Force. We now have a Leeward Haleakala Fire Task Force. So, we're hoping that we can continue to be proactive and preparing for and responding to fires. I think that's a pretty fast run down. So, maybe I'll give you guys some time to answer questions before I use up all my time.

MS. BUCKMAN: Thank you. I appreciate the increase.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. Mahalo, Chair, Mahalo, Ms. Buckman, for your presentation. I appreciate this map of all the, I think this is landowners. So, are those landowners, all the landowners that you partner with, the organization partners went to malama that area?

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importance of doing this work and that it is possible so, you know, we're facing a lot of threats, but it's exciting to see things starting to kind of take shape on a bigger scale.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. For Auwahi's postage stamp, where is it in relation to the map on the last page?

MS. BUCKMAN: It should be, it's on the contour map, so Auwahi would be this light green part in the corner and Auwahi is on, kind of, in the middle of that eastern side of . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Ulupalakua Ranch. So, we still work with Ulupalakua Ranch in the surrounding areas to do larger scale restoration, seed collection. We are, we're supportive of their efforts with bat mitigation. That's a lot of the restoration that's going on there now, so we're focusing currently on the south slope and the areas where we have bigger fences and where the native forest is still intact, for the most part. But yeah, Ulupalakua Ranch is part of my Executive Committee and remains a strong partner.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And the Pu`u O Kali Enclosure?

MS. BUCKMAN: That's that little --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah

MS. BUCKMAN: --one above Kihei. So, it's actually 236 acres. So, it's not that small, but that's a Wiliwili dry forest. Some of the best remaining Wiliwili forests that we have left on Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And Zwaanstra?

MS. BUCKMAN: Zwaanstra is the parcel that's soon to be Kamehamenui Forest Reserve. That land transfer I believe the County was instrumental in getting that funding but it's not quite completed the sale yet. But that's going to be Kamehamenui Forest Reserve. So we're really excited to have a place where you can drive up and take kids and do community programs and planting there.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Buckman. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good questions. Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Vice-Chair Rawlins Fernandez covered it for me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, now you're thinking alike. Mr. Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Andrea, for being here. I just had a question. You know, last week we had some people speak about axis deer. Is that a problem for some of the, your guys operations Upcountry?

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MS. BUCKMAN: It's a huge problem. And I've seen them personally spread over time both up in elevation and kind of coming around from Kaupo. They're now starting to come, you know, to the west and they're expanding up slope so we see them up in even the shrub lands which before were pretty low impact other than goats. We've also had problems this year with them breaching our fences. We had some internal units that were five-foot fence because it's, you know, meant to be just internal and some pressure from the adjacent ungulate removal has pushed them into one of our areas. So, they are amazing athletes and they can jump fence. So, now luckily we've gotten some additional fencing so we're going to heighten even those internal units, just to be sure if a breach does happen we're protecting those areas that we've invested so much in planting in. But they're a huge problem, I mean, for our farmers as well, you know, they not only eat and trample the plants but they scrape their horns on the trunks so if they can't reach the fruit and they're not impacting the canopy of the trees, they're killing them from the base up too so they have, they've been a serious detriment that's only accelerating.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: A follow-up. Are you guys able to do ungulate control on . . .

MS. BUCKMAN: We, as an organization don't do ungulate control. We work, we start with our landowners and many of them have their own private hunting program so we work at that level first and then we've done different things in the past. We've worked with the State to do arrow shooting and then we've also worked with Jake Muise and KIA Hawaii to do animal salvage. That work kind of depends on the landowner. Each of my projects is different and I fulfill whatever the landowner's specific requirements and goals and desires are for how they want their animals managed. And I facilitate that the best we can. Yeah but we don't personally use weapons or do ungulate removal so you have to rely on outside expertise.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right, great. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? None. Thank you very much.

MS. BUCKMAN: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very informative. Next testifier is Challen [sic] Villalon followed by Jordan Jokiel.

MR. VILLALON: Good afternoon, Chair, Members. Thanks for the opportunity to come and talk today. I won't take up too much of your time. I don't have too much to share outside of what was already shared and probably will be expressed. I just kind of want to echo their message and kind of urge you guys and consider really your continued support on Leeward and other conservation projects on Maui. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I want to thank you because I know it's hard work from the things we've been learning about preserving our watersheds so thank you for being here.

MR. VILLALON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions, Members? He's also from Leeward Watershed. Thank you. Next testifier is Jordan from Haleakala Ranch. And then Edwin Misaki from Molokai.

MR. JOKIEL: Aloha and good afternoon. Thank you so much for this opportunity. Yeah. So, I am, my name is Jordan Jokiel. I work for Haleakala Ranch. I'm one of the land managers there. I'm very close to this community of people and I presented to you folks in the past and I'm really here just for two reasons. One is to mahalo you for your continued support. I mean, it's very important that this group of people, this County recognizes the importance of water protection and water supply and how those two things are related. It's very progressive thinking for the State of Hawaii, so mahalo for that. But also to advocate for the work of what have become very dear friends and close colleagues of mine. I now work for Haleakala Ranch in a land management capacity, but I've been everything from a field technician, to a program manager with the watershed, two of the watershed partnerships here on East Maui and Leeward Haleakala, as well as The Nature Conservancy on staff and with the invasive species committees on Oahu where I grew up in Kaneohe. So, Haleakala Ranch, we spend close to half a million dollars doing land stewardship work. A lot of that is invasive species work. A lot of that is native forest and watershed protection, some level of endangered species protection, and then we're involved in an emerging koa silviculture enterprise. And all of that work is really founded on, like, the knowledge that we've learned and that we're applying to these practices, really a lot of it, was founded in the work that you guys have funded, the watershed protection work, the conservation work, so it really does pay off in the different sectors. One thing we do too, we're actually pretty active, is outreach and volunteer work because I think that is, just like Dr. Medeiros said, and I think others will say today, you know, by engaging directly with the community on hands-on work, it's super important. It's probably the best way to really educate and inform people, not just standing in front of them and talking story but really working, getting dirty and answering questions that spontaneously and kind of organically kind of come up. So, I work very directly with Leeward Haleakala Watershed Partnership. We're a member of that partnership, the East Maui Watershed Partnership, the Invasive Species Committee and The Nature Conservancy that manages land that they have a management easement on. And it's so nice to collaborate with these folks. We have these emerging enterprises like koa silviculture where we work and we're talking about how do we build forests. You brought up a very good question, like how expensive is restoration. It's extremely expensive. You know, we're budgeting at Haleakala Ranch 4 to \$5,000 an acre to do a project, a demonstration project on Haleakala Ranch. To me restoration is most meaningful when it's done at scale. So, it's really important to capture your costs and to refine those costs, to refine your practices, so that you, as decision makers of our budget, have an idea of what it costs to scale up, because water is one of our greatest needs

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and it comes at a cost. So, as we protect intact native forests, like East Maui Watershed is doing very well, and so is the Maui Invasive Species Committee, we need to rebuild forests that are no longer here like they're doing in leeward Haleakala. There's more straws in our aquifer every single day. We need to develop more forests because without water we don't really have any communities. Water . . . we need it for everything. We need it to live, we need it for our economy, we need it for our spiritually, all of those needs are met by water so I just wanted to come and, I'm not asking for any money, I just wanted to say mahalo to you folks and to continue to advocate for all the good work that these colleagues, these partners have been doing. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you so much for being here. That was an education for us to see what Haleakala is doing, for the community, is really what you're doing it for.

MR. JOKIEL: Thank you, and we welcome anytime, you know, especially what we're doing with koa, that's something we're learning, we're making mistakes and we're not afraid to say that so we're really, I would encourage any and all of you to come up and take a look at what we're doing and, you know, see what it's all about. It ties into carbon sequestering, it ties into soil health, it ties into reductions of labor and herbicide, all of that stuff, is being managed by this team of people that's presenting to you today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. JOKIEL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Does anyone have questions? Members? Seeing none, thank you very much. Maybe Mike Molina and I will do a site visit Upcountry. Thank you. Next we have East Molokai Watershed Partnership. And it's \$250,000 is what I have --

MR. MISAKI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: --for the grants.

MR. MISAKI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you for coming over.

MR. MISAKI: Thank you, County Council, and hello, Keani. I think you all have a handout and I quickly want to go through this handout. I'm a visual person so that's why I made this handout. But, the first picture you're looking at is really the East Molokai Watershed Partnership and it's on East Molokai. And the Partnership is celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It was formed in November of 1999. And these are all the things that the DWS helps to fund. All these things that is listed on there. Very important work that we do. Very hard work. If you turn to the next page, we have two ongoing fence projects and, like I say, because the State really trusts that we're going to take care of the forest and a lot of times we have to fence it. And so, the State has approved two CIP projects. The Paku'i Fence Unit, which is currently being worked on

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and the Kamakou Lower Fence Unit which will be worked on right after the Paku'i Fence Unit. These are two very important fence units. They will almost double the size of our existing fence units. Very important. These are some of the last remaining diverse intact native forests left on Molokai. So, a very important project. And like I say, the DWS funds really help to solidify our efforts to get funds for these kind of projects. Now, I can go into detail on the work we do, but what I'd rather show you is the benefits that the funding has brought to Molokai. And you can see fencing is very important so you see Kamalo 2013, you see the fences do work. You see Kawela. I took this picture in 2017 and I believe this is the same, I took this picture when Keani went up on a field trip with me. So, and fences are very important because you do have to get animals out of the forest, but you also have to prevent them from entering the forest. We also, through your funding, we also have ways of measuring our progress. And so this is understory monitoring. We, actually, it's a course measurement. The way to really explain it is like if you go to the doctor, he takes your breathing, your heart rate, your pulse, this is like a rough monitoring. And then if we detect something really radical going on, then we have to do deeper research, or whatever, to find out what's going on. And as you can see our upper forest, and this really explains to us what we already knew, that our upper forests are pretty intact, they're pretty healthy, but as you get lower down, where you get animals and goats and deer, you know, especially outside the fence units, you know, it starts getting degraded. So, that's called Molokai Understory Monitoring. I'm really proud that we developed this on Molokai. And people all over the State are using this monitoring now. If you go to the next stage, the next page, and you see the entire island of Molokai and you see that little triangle there, that's Kawela Plantations, and what I wanted to show you is by satellite we can actually see the changes that are going on some of the most denuded places on Molokai. If you turn to the next page . . . so the first map of Kawela, the blown up, is a 2005 picture. Now, if you flip the page and you look at 2014 you see how much greener it is? That is satellite evidence that we're making a difference. We're also very fortunate to have USGS and they have a Kawela Ridge to Reef studies, and it's an actual research. It's factual. They collected data and I'm going to just, I don't want to, you know, you can look over the data, the results of the data after, but just look at the visuals. The difference between the upper photo and the lower photo. Same area. Then you look at the area used to be like we all on Molokai, we all called this the moonscape. All my life I've hunted up there. It was bare and nothing. And since we started doing our management, especially getting rid of a lot of the goats, you know, we can't eradicate them there because it's not within a fence unit. But if you looked at Kawela Ridge Site 1 unfenced, just by getting, cutting the goat number, without a fence, look what happens. And the next picture, when you flip, the same area, it went from 1 percent vegetation cover to now over 70 percent vegetation cover. And I think when I took up, Keani them all saw this and, you know, Keani grew up on Molokai so she knows what I'm talking about. But I would encourage you guys all to come visit me and I'll take you to this site and it really does show a difference. Now, this goes beyond the watershed partnerships. And you look at this next graph. I actually, and I don't want you to make this a published document, because I actually went to the supervisor at DOT on Molokai and he actually let me look through his overtime records for this area and you see how the overtime hours have dropped over time. And so, this is not only an economic benefit



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but it's also a public safety benefit because on Molokai, during the rainy season, that stretch of roads get so muddy, in fact sometimes people can't come to work because it just gets so flooded and muddy, and so this is some of the results and the benefits from the funding that we receive from DWS. It's very important. DWS provides about a quarter of our entire Molokai budget. So, it's very important to us. It's very needed. And I just want to say thank you. For years now, it's been over ten years, I believe, that we've received DWS funding. In fact, over ten years. More like 15, 20 years. And it's been so important to us. And the one good thing about DWS funds, because it's generated Maui County funds, we can actually leverage other funds. Like Federal funds, or State funds. So, it's very important to us. Yeah. And then, of course, the last slide is just simply to invite you to come visit Molokai. And I'm sure Keani will help me take you to these places. I actually took her to this really remote place and we actually found a new arch site. That was exciting. But anyway, thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, this is very interesting. The photos are striking. Just to see what impact you've had. Amazing. Members, do you have any questions? I am sure Keani wants to chime in here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Uncle Eddie, Mr. Misaki.

MR. MISAKI: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your presentation and for taking me up to the forest. I remember looking down and seeing that stark difference between, you know, where the fence line, above the fence line and below the fence line and, you know, not just the amount of mud going on the road but also all that, you know, silts and erosion and all that dirt going and covering our reef below that. And while we were up on the mountains you could see, like, less and less of that amount of dirt going into the ocean and covering our reefs so mahalo for the amazing job your team is doing. I wish I had thought about this when the previous speaker was up here. He said that, so for Haleakala Ranch, they budgeted 4 to \$5,000 per acre. I don't know if that's active or passive restoration and only when you came up here did I think about that because that was something that you explained to me, that the team does more passive --

MR. MISAKI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --restoration because of how much time and effort and funding would be required to do more of the active restoration. But even with passive restoration you can see the difference that, you know, the fence line and the removing of the invasive species, the native species just come back.

MR. MISAKI: So, passive restoration is we just focus on the threats. We don't put any seed or plants in the ground. What was so astounding in Kawela, we thought it would be all grasses coming back. I would say about 60 percent of the vegetation coming back is native. In fact, today when I drive up there I just get so astounded because now

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we're starting to see tree height vegetation from nothing before. So, it just shows me that our native species can be very resilient if we give them a chance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

MR. MISAKI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Impressive.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, I think, you know, like all the previous speakers are saying is that, you know, water is life and we need to, you know, make sure we continue to invest in it and even with, you know, just passive restoration the results are, you know, clear. So, you know, if we could continue to, you know, invest and increase investment in our watershed protection organizations it would be to the benefit of everyone.

MR. MISAKI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I have the funding that they get . . .

MR. MISAKI: Yeah, 250,000 a year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's what I have also.

MR. MISAKI: And I just want again to thank you guys for your support. Thank you for having us here and especially everybody who comes to support the watershed partnerships. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. No other questions, Members? The next testifier is also from The Nature Conservancy is, can you say your name? Alsen [sic] Gohan [sic]?

MS. COHAN: Cohan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cohan.

MS. COHAN: Thank you. Aloha, Chair Sugimura, Councilmembers. My name is Alison Cohan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Alison. Sorry.

MS. COHAN: Sorry, my bad handwriting. I was late. I'm the director of The Nature Conservancy Maui Terrestrial Program and I spoke to you guys last week. I wanted to talk to you again today because The Nature Conservancy on Maui does have two Department of Water Supply grants. So, last week I gave you a handout focused on

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our Waikamoi Preserve on East Maui. Nine thousand acres managed for zero levels of feral ungulates, all of them, and as well as innovative weed control and the work that we do there, community outreach, and research, and monitoring. And then we do also have a much smaller grant, 75,000, for our Kapunakea Preserve on West Maui. And I just wanted to come talk to you and be available for questions for that and tell you a little bit more about our operation. So we have, there's six of us on the Maui Terrestrial staff, myself, a natural resource manager, a GIS specialist, a field coordinator, a field tech and a program coordinator. And that's pretty bare bones operations for the level of work that we're doing. So, we're doing really intensive management, like I said, not just building the fences. Most of the fences have been built, but as some of my colleagues talked about, the threats are just increasing. And on West Maui Kapunakea Preserve we have axis deer, we all know, and you've heard lately how bad the deer problem is. And so, some of these fences, like Andrea had talked about, do need to be retrofitted and heightened to extend their levels and make sure that the deer are not getting in. So, that's one of the projects we're doing. Leveraging funding from Department of Water Supply as some of my colleagues mentioned it's so critical even if the amount is \$75,000. Being able to leverage that two or three times from State and Federal sources in order to get some of these big projects done. So, it is pretty intensive work that we're doing. The fence maintenance requiring a lot of work. You can imagine from the flash flooding that we've had, of course, fires burn fences, but the rugged topography of West Maui makes it so that you have to have these stream curtains and redo them, and check them after wind events, and check them after flash flooding, and so, that takes a lot of work. And some of the other work that we're doing is some of that innovative weed control like Adam was referring to. The herbicide ballistic technology. Luckily, Maui Invasive Species Committee working on that. And that's a tool that all of us can use across the watershed. So, there's strawberry guava that we'd like to tackle that on West Maui as well as Himalayan ginger is a really important weed that has the ability to take over the watershed on East Maui. And it's growing not just in large stands under the canopy where we can't see it, but it's growing on steep cliff sides and up in trees where we can only reach it via helicopter. So, that's an important tool. And one kind of cool thing that we're working on, we're always trying to innovate. And so, in my program we have a UAV, a drone program and we use that to collect imagery at a baseline level before we do weed treatment. Collect imagery, kind of, during weed treatment to document the mortality and see if it's working over time to see the efficacy of our work. Of course, that's a lot cheaper than flying a helicopter so that's a tool we want to continue to use and develop. And recently I went to a conference where on the mainland they're actually delivering herbicide from drones. So, that's something we want to continue to work on. Not using your money for this R&D, but some pretty exciting stuff and the point being that we're always looking to collaborate, to learn from our partners, and to leverage resources to do the very best job we can do with the least impact to the native resources and just utilizing your money most efficiently and effectively. So, we just mahalo to all of you and your innovative thinking, your progressive thinking, and your support for our work, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for being here. Yes, Mr. Sinenci?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Alison. I just, did you mention how large in acreage is Kapunakea?

MS. COHAN: Kapunakea is about 1,300 acres. Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. No other questions? Thank you very much for being here.

MS. COHAN: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you for your good work.

MS. COHAN: Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering for the herbicide ballistic missiles, like what happens if you miss the tree that you're aiming for?

MS. COHAN: Well, hopefully your applicator won't miss. Generally it is really, really targeted and I've certainly never knew Dr. Leary to miss because he was so adamant, militant adamant, about his precision. Usually, like, for the Himalayan ginger and the strawberry guava trees, they're usually what's around your target is also strawberry guava or Himalayan ginger. If it were in an area where it was a lone target you would just have to be very careful, or perhaps choose not to do that tree if you didn't feel good about it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is there protocols around like water sources and streams and stuff like that and also around weather?

MS. COHAN: Yes. Adam probably knows more about that but depending on the herbicide some of them are labeled for water usage and some of them are not. And I think the strawberry guava one you can't use in the water, right. So, but, again, those are woody species, like the strawberry guava and the Miconia just being really careful about where you use that, yeah, and not going out in bad weather anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And what is the areas that you want to eliminate the strawberry guava from? Like if there's in residential areas or I mean and how do you prevent the transport of the seeds after the tree itself is eliminated?

MS. COHAN: Well, I think for our work, most of it we're doing in Conservation-zoned land that's pretty high away from residential areas. So, like, for the Kapunakea Preserve we're talking about, you know, well above 2,000 feet. So, the seeds wouldn't be transported into, down into residential areas.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. COHAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. It would be nice if we could use that for coqui frogs. Just is the name of it, the ballistic --

MS. COHAN: I know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: --herbicide.

MS. COHAN: Or the drone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or the drone, right?

MS. COHAN: Yeah. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Send it to Maliko Gulch. Thank you very much.

MS. COHAN: Appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other...okay, so we have the last testifier here and then we'll go to the District Offices. I think only Hana has a testifier. Zandra Amaral-Crouse.

MS. AMARAL-CROUSE: Aloha koo mau hoaloha. Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you for being here today. I am excited about this. I'm not here as an expert in anything and I'm not going to ask for money, Yuki, so relax guys. I'm here simply to thank all of you for the workshops that you had with these gentlemen and ladies. I believe it was last week, I sat in on those. I'm also grateful for the, some of you that showed up for the Ahupuaa Summit this past two days at the University of Hawaii because water is important. And it's all connected. It's kind of like many of you Councilmembers stipulated and believe that water is our life. Without water there is nothing. And the one thing, and the biggest thing, I'm sorry, I learned many things, but the biggest thing I learned from the Ahupuaa Summit, as well as the presentation that these men and women took out of their time to present to you, Madam Chair, in your Committee last week, was the importance of our watersheds. I learned a lot about the importance and that's what brought me here today as a resident, as a young lady who grew up on a farm here. My house abuts Haleakala Ranch in Kihei. So, I get visited every day, especially during the summertime, by a whole bunch of axis deer. And it's all raw land. All raw land. The fire broke out. Not only on the ranch, but it broke out behind my house in my backyard. Literally, a foot away from my bedroom window. Yeah. It did. The last one we had in Kihei. So, I think that it is important that you continue to fund these individuals in our community who are diligently, not only giving us hundreds of thousands of dollars in free volunteer services. Look, our Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, she volunteered her time. She went go visit the mountain in Molokai. Thank you, Councilmember. But many of the other hours that these men

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and women solicit from the community to help them. So, I believe that what they're asking for is very little as compared to what they're giving back to the community. But I do know that I am preaching to the choir. You have provided much support for these groups in the past. I humbly ask, as a resident, as someone who will benefit as a resident, not only myself, my moopuna and my great grandchildren will benefit from all that they do to preserve the water, the watersheds, that we enjoy so we can enjoy the life that we do here on Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Miss...

MS. AMARAL-CROUSE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Zandra.

MS. AMARAL-CROUSE: Thank you, Yuki.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for giving us your time.

MS. AMARAL-CROUSE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And now we'll go to the District Offices. On Lanai, Denise Fernandez, do you have any testifiers?

MS. FERNANDEZ: Good afternoon, Chair. This is Denise Fernandez at the Lanai Office and there are no testifiers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you for waiting. Molokai, Zhantell Lindo, any testifiers? Zhantell's not here. I believe she said there were no testifiers earlier. Hana Office, Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, do you have any testifiers?

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: Aloha, Chair. This is Mavis from the Hana Office and I have one testifier. Her name is Kamalani Pahukoa.

MS. PAHUKOA: Do I just speak? Hi, aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MS. PAHUKOA: My name is Kamalani Pahukoa and I just wanted to comment, give testimony in regards to the item WIT-13. Can they hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. PAHUKOA: Okay. So, in regards to the grant that will be or the monies that will be allocated to protect our watershed, to my knowledge, based off of, you know, what I've seen firsthand being in the mountains these past three years, some non-profits and conservation entities have focused on issues that can be managed by volunteers. If only we organize the access-way to our Maui County residents. And I did touch upon

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this topic, I believe, it was last week in regards to an ungulate management grant that was to be, also to be released to an off-island commercial hunter. And I just wanted to again make note that in regards to our ungulates and invasive species, it's great that we do have these conservation and non-profit entities formulated to help tackle the topics such as, you know, coqui frogs, guava as I heard an earlier testifier, I think she was from TNC, mentioned. But if only Maui County was to organize a hui that, you know, would create this, give, empower our residents, our Maui County residents, in regards to access. They can do watershed management and the protection, like, procedures to manage the mountains. In regards to access, when it comes to ungulates, it is very clear that Maui County has all the power to formulate this hui made up of Maui County residents and, again, they would be volunteers. So, if only we could, I guess, spend a little time organizing ourselves so that we wouldn't have to issue grant monies to conservationists that I believe sometimes aren't as effective as what our Maui County residents would be. Meaning that sometimes I feel like when monies are released to conservation entities it kind of takes away kuleana that our own hunters can possess. And it's their inherit right to have access to these mountains. So, it's a little bit of a collaboration with the County of Maui, with State Forestry, and whatnot. But I believe that empowerment needs to happen for us to make headway and for us to make swift moves when it comes to filling up those slots every weekend. You know, you should have, every week or weekend there should be hui sent in the mountain to simply hunt which is ungulate management and whatnot. So, just wanting to make that clear to County and put that on record. And that's it for my testimony today. I, too, was just hosting invitees from the Ahupuaa Summit that occurred on Friday and Saturday at the UH College and, again it was made clear by everyone that attended, that watershed management and protection is a priority for Maui County. I'd just like to see the County working and organizing a little harder to create this hui made up of residents and hunters and watershed protectors. Because, again, Maui County has, you know, the residents at your disposal. It's just we'd need a little more time to organize because these non-profits and these conservation entities can't do it by themselves. And that's it. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anyone have questions? Seeing none, thank you very much for your testimony. At this time is there anybody else in the gallery that would like to testify? Seeing none, I'm going to close public testimony with your permission, Members?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, public testimony is now closed.

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

**ITEM WIT-13: STATUS OF GRANTS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY  
AND BENCHMARKS FOR GRANTEE PERFORMANCE (MISC)**

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: I wonder if Board of Water Supply, if you want to say any, the Department of Water Supply, if you would like to give any comments to what has been shared from the watershed projects?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair. Well, I'm glad they all showed up here to really present their projects because they're the specialists and we're really just sort of handing out the money. But I wanted to talk more about how and why we hand out the money and then if there were somebody who couldn't be here today I do have a slide prepared for that specific project.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if you could talk about that. You know, of the questions is, is the amount of water [sic] set, you know, based upon whatever formula and, I guess, are we able to give them more money? I'm sure everybody would like more but there must be a cap. So, if you could cover some of that in your presentation, to close this section.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yes, I think this is sort of where the rubber hits the road. Why do we provide water rate funded funds for these projects. Because there are a lot of benefits to all kinds of ecosystem services, but for us, the bottom line is that it supports freshwater drinking supplies. So, the funds we give are really, we're trying, there's always a need for more and there are good reason to provide more funding. It's just we see our funding as sort of the core funding to sustain the main deliverable which is keeping control of feral ungulates and invasive weed to maintain the hydrologic processes so we can have groundwater recharge and freshwater in our streams. There is a need for additional funding because most of these projects are willing to expand to take on more. It may not be from water rates, but it could be from other funds.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, mahalo. Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Ms. Blumenstein, for your comments. So, I just wanted to get on record so people who are watching, the public who are watching, the grants that the grantees receive are only come from the water rates that people pay?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: That's correct. From the Department's funds, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. And so, more than just those that benefit from the County water benefit from watershed restoration and aquifer recharge.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it would make sense then that we find other funds outside of water rates to supplement the work that is being done by our, by these watershed protection organizations.



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MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then really quick --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --did we hear from Bio-Eco Models for Protection Against Miconia Invasion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So the . . .

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, go ahead.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: They did not propose for a grant for FY '21 so they were not presented now. They didn't request for additional funds for this upcoming fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. I thought we were reviewing the grantees that received funding from previous year.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: They requested from Fiscal Year '19 on. The project lead, which was Dr. Leary, who moved off to Florida, I think somebody mentioned that he was the sort of the inventor of that herbicide ballistic technology and whatnot. So, a UH team at least temporarily took over the project and as you heard Maui Invasive Species Committee and Adam Radford are sort of like taking on that part of it. So, they're not asking for additional funds. I don't know if it's going to be something that comes up again in the future. So, we don't have any deliverables to report on for FY '20 as of yet. Even for FY '19 they had requested an extension so there's really nothing to report on yet.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, did you receive a report, like a final report from them or there's nothing --

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: There hasn't really been much . . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --to report on?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: There may have been some deliverables that we have not seen reporting or request for reimbursement for. The only thing, if I'm correct, is a extension request for the first, for Fiscal Year '19.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, did they use any of the \$95,186?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: We haven't gotten a request for reimbursement so --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: --I think not.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo for the clarification. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just to follow up on Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So the Council couldn't technically increase the budget? We would have to appropriate the budget?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Blumenstein?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Are you asking for this coming fiscal year or . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. I mean, no, I'm just, clarification that DWS sets the rates for these --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's a grants process.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Well, let me jump to . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: --grant numbers.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Actually. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We don't set those?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: So, when we request to come to this body to request funding we first issue a request for proposal for anyone really, or any non-profit, that can do this kind of work to apply for grant funds. We, meaning the Department, and other County agencies, even State agencies, we sit together on a committee, review each grant application on its own merits, compared to what had been awarded in the past, and what is requested. Then we recommend an allocation for that specific project. Sometimes that is exactly what the grantee or the project is asking for, sometimes it's less. So, what you see on the right here is what that grant analysis committee recommends be funded. This is now before the Mayor has proposed his final budget to this body so this could still change. So, this represents what the grant analysis committee recommends be funded for FY '21. Then, of course, Council, I assume, has the discretion to change those allocations. Generally this is what gets funded in

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Council and as you can see it's pretty much the same projects as for FY '19 and '20, except that Bio-Economic Models, who did not come in for request this year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good questions. Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, is it possible to get two or three sentences that describes what was contained in the proposals for all of the grantees?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want a summary?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Highlight? Ms. Blumenstein, was that part of . . .

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Well, the last slides from my presentation is sort of just like a snapshot of the request for FY '21. It may not summarize specific, it's more the overview of each project. Are you asking specifically from the proposal, the FY --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: --'21 proposal? Maybe I can provide something additional too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, maybe, Ms. Blumenstein, what you can do is, we'll send a letter and for all of the different watersheds. I think what Ms. Tasha is asking for, you can correct me, is kind of a blurb, a summary, of what each one kind of does, for the award.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But also what they were . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Awarded?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Because you put out an RFP, right, and they respond to the RFP saying, so that's what I want to know. I want to know what did we ask them for and what did they respond with.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah, we can give you a copy of the RFP. There's also different evaluation criteria that the committee looks at to assess those.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Then in the Mayor's budget when that gets proposed next month there is a blurb because this could still change, right, over the next month, until the end of March. There is a little two-three sentences about what each project is proposed to, the deliverables and the kind of justification why they request funding.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, let me just make sure I'm clear with what we're doing. The status of grants under Department of Water Supply and benchmarks for grantee performance. So is this, we're talking about 2021 or '19, '20? Because I know earlier I thought we were talking about past performances, but now we're talking about ongoing performance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ms. Blumenstein?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: I jumped to that slide because there was a question from Member Sinenci about how we do the process, but this is sort of where slide number 2 . . . FY '19 and FY '20, how do we measure the performance of the existing grantees.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: So, I can kind of jump in here again.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. I got it. Okay. Thank you.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: So, kind of a snapshot of what types of projects we fund. These are primarily in the mauka critical watersheds that are areas of highest rainfall and fog drip so to maximize drinking water supplies. The type of projects that we fund tend to be in the mauka watersheds. They also should directly or indirectly benefit DWS customers or future customers, have some nexus to drinking water supplies that the Department either uses for groundwater sources or surface water sources. So, the maps show the boundaries, the rough boundaries of the various projects and where the Department's sources are. So, when we assess a project, we want to know that . . . what are the cost and benefits for public water supply? Is there an underlying long-range water management plan? So, there's a long-term strategy to how the product will achieve the goals long-term. Then, ongoing, grants are, grantees need to submit a quarterly report with their request for reimbursement. So, that's sort of how we measure whether the projected deliverables were met for that period. That could be whether they were weed transects done. Whether there were fence maintenance or number of ungulates removed. This example is from Ed Misaki's Molokai quarterly report as of December of last year. But we receive that more in a tabular form as well so we can kind of measure progress over the project year, because these are annual deliverables. So, we maintain kind of like a grant tracking spreadsheet and make notes of any issues and concerns that come up. So, we do this for each fiscal year. Some, most of the projects are still using Fiscal Year '19 funds because they are issued late in the year and then, you know, they go on quarterly and they've just started the FY '20. At the end of each fiscal year, meaning, when sort of the last grantee has completed the deliverables for that fiscal year, we also submit a report to this body so you kind of just get updated for the whole year, not quarterly, but just for the fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions for the Department? Ms. Rawlins?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. With Pro Temp Kama's question to the Department and to the watershed protection organizations, will you please include in that correspondence the difference of what they did not receive. For example, No. 1, East Maui Watershed Partnership applied for \$492,988 and the committee recommended \$450,000. So, with that \$42,000 less that they requested and we're not granting, what will they not do? What are we not . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll ask that question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. For all of them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excellent. Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just so in terms of how we're going to proceed today. I know we are already asking questions. Are we going to, I know Department put together the PowerPoint. Are we going to bypass the PowerPoint and just on our own come up with questions or are we going to hear the presentation?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I'd just like to know because I know we got another big item on the agenda today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we do. So we're at the end of this.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, just to . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --so are we going to have a presentation from the Department on this PowerPoint?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They're done, basically.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The present . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: So, we can just bounce questions off of this on our own, start thumbing through this and then . . .

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Unless if you have questions for the Department. So, the Department, as I said, because I was trying to tie it to the aquifer sectors and then now that we're in the midst of budget coming up, I kind of forego the Water Use and Development Plan until after budget and we'll do that. But the watersheds that presented, some were repeats, but most of it were new, and it was just to complete the discussion for your information about what we're going to be seeing during the Budget Session. So, I'm sorry if this is confusing you, but I wanted to . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, it is. Because I thought we were going to watch a presentation then bounce questions off the Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: But, no, I'm just asking if we want to bypass the presentation and just go on our own start asking questions now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if you want to ask the Department. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I'm asking how to proceed so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, right now --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --we're not going to have the presentation then?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: --if you want to ask the Department questions, so basically what the Department was prepared to do is to talk about any watersheds that did not show up. But we now have had presentations from the watersheds that are being included in the, you know, upcoming budget. So if you have questions for the Department over and beyond, or if you want them to go through their presentation we can also do that. But I think that a lot of that was answered.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah, I think the last slides, the project slides, I wasn't really going to go through that because we had presentations from everyone that asked for a grant. So, this was more just focusing on the performance for FY '19 and '20 and how we justified their request for FY '21. So, again, this goes back to the performance benchmarking. This will be the second-to-the-last slide then I think. So, you get an idea of kind of how to tie this all together in terms of how much we fund. It is, ultimately, of course, what is requested by the grantee, and if there is something that the committee considered would not further support them, it may have been an expansion of the project, sometimes a grantee takes on additional acreage or there is a new threat discovered, that may be something that we, well, we recommend additional funding compared to the previous year. So, it's both. We justify expansions from the previous year and also looking if there were specific needs for this new year. So, it's sort of like a justification both ways. What was requested and what was allocated the previous year. And, the pie chart gives you an idea at least of the size of the projects. If there's a large acreage maintained, actively managed, this shows you acres that are actively managed, or surveyed, you know there's going to require a lot of staff and

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personnel and helicopter time is sort of the big ticket items, in terms of what DWS funds. Then there's other criteria, of course. It may be a very remote area or specific threats that needs to be addressed. On the bottom just summarizing, too, performance measures, some of the deliverables through, this is through Fiscal Year '18, because that's the last complete year that we have reported on. So, we're looking at things like fence construction, actively managed areas for invasive species, and ungulates removed, that kind of things. So, those are tracked more in a tabular format but at the end of each fiscal year, when it's complete then we provide that report to this body as well. And that was it. I wasn't really going to cover the other project slides since everyone got a chance to present.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you know, I'll proudly say that Maui County, as I've heard just through the years of discussion, is that Maui County has supported the watersheds strongly in comparison to some of the other counties in our state, and what we have on the previous slide is that the Department of Water Supply protects, has supported watershed protection grant proposals for 2.7 million. So, thank you very much. Anybody have any questions for the Department? Oh, Tamara Paltin? Oh, you're not done, Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well I wasn't quite done but that's okay. I'll yield to my colleague. I have more questions on why we had reductions for certain, some of the groups.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Can I let him finish, then? I'm sorry. Go ahead, Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Ms. Blumenstein. You know, I noticed there were some reductions the committee made from, like, Leeward Haleakala went from, they applied for 300,000, then the committee recommended 250. West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership wanted 693,604, the committee recommend 600,000. That's, you know, 93,000 plus in reductions. Can you just elaborate why? Because I know we just talked about to see if we can give these guys more money, yet the committee, you know, made a reduction, made some reductions.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: So, generally, our funding level has been about \$2.5 million annually. And we, I don't think any year have we funded 100 percent of the grant requests because it would be up in the \$3 million range. So, I think for FY '21, we haven't requested expansion from the previous year but 4.7 percent more than what we funded in FY '20. So, I mean, if you see it from the comparison what this request did and what we recommended funding, we both justified to the grantee, or the request, is this something within your project that we're not willing to fund because it may be an area that is not, doesn't have sufficient nexus to our current customers. It may be a piece of equipment, a truck, or a drone, or something like that, that we feel, you know, this is just not, we have to . . . they are limited. They are not infinite funds so within our means, how do we best allocate to . . . and some competition between the projects as well. Does that make sense? I mean sort of we have asked for an increase from this body compared to the previous year, consistently. But rarely have we funded 100 percent of the requested funds from the projects.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Appreciate the historical background on, you know, the process and everything else. Because yeah it is, some of them did kind of open my eyes when I saw, you know, 93,000 drop, you know, while at the same time we're talking about the need to keep these organizations funded to address this real critical matter. So, okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Blumenstein and all the partners. I was wondering, I thought that last budget that we had talked something about advertising as in, you know, spreading education and awareness about the importance of not spreading invasive species and diseases and whatnot. Like, awareness at the airports, or boats, or whatever it is, harbors, about, like, spreading rapid ohia death, or things like that about bringing plants, fruits or animals interisland and I was wondering if that's not reflected in this, if it's reflected in somewhere else? Or as non-profits, maybe you can have free PSAs on the radio. Is that something that you guys develop the content and spread out or anything in those regards as to how to help preserve watersheds and, you know, like cleaning off your hiking gear if you come from the Big Island, or whatever it is?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah I remember the same discussion from last year. I don't, I can't recall that a specific one of the projects is addressing the airport, et cetera, but almost all of them are doing extensive outreach and pretty diversified so it's between going to schools, talking to targeted groups. If it's landscaping or not using invasive plants in their projects, or taking volunteers up. So, that was, I don't think those specific messages through airport is included as a deliverable in FY '21 but we see public outreach in the different forms. It's definitely one of those key components. I mean that is part of what we fund to get the message out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I remember like under the Tavares Administration when they had the little fire ant that I think Kuhea was on the radio, like, spreading awareness about it and, like, if you are a non-profit, I think you can do PSAs for cheaper or something, and I just was wondering who develops the content on that. Like is it the Department of Water Supply, or is it one of the partners, and then do they share it amongst like . . . recently I flew interisland and it was weird because when I was leaving I had to like go through this agricultural machine in the ticket area, the gate area. But then when I was coming back there was nothing. So, it's like, are we only not exporting, but we don't care about what's coming in. And like it was so random because I flew interisland a bunch of times and that was like the only one time. So, it was like, you know, I don't know, Big Island has a lot of stuff that we don't want coming over here, but we're screening guys going out there, was kind of weird to me.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah, yeah. I kind of want to yield if there was any of the project managers here who are familiar more with the quarantine and airport. I'm really not the expert at it. But I just see the specific outreach that they propose that we tend to



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support. The ones I mentioned, it's more the general options of volunteering, the school and the science part, but I'm not that familiar with that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think sometimes people see us, like the County, as the in-between of the State, Federal, and the on-the-ground partners, like the hands-on folks, and I think, you know, us being three islands in a county, we could be the experts at like not transferring things back and forth because we really don't want the things that the Big Island has coming over here and, you know, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. So, don't bring that over here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Point well taken. Sounds like it could be an interesting budget item for education and of this with visitors or others that come through the airport. So, are you saying, Department, that you do have some kind of program that you do to educate the community, besides the watershed, what these projects are?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Well, the type of outreach the Department or my division do, it's more specific for water quality, like source protection, groundwater protection, or water conservation. We don't take on, we're really not the experts in the watershed protection area, so I feel that would be a little out of our league to kind of get there. We do support and fund the outreach and the volunteerism that the grant projects . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see what you're saying. Okay. So, the different projects that have volunteers, and schools, and education, that's part of what your funds support.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah, and I see, I mean, I looked at it a little closer this last few weeks, and it's really, it is diverse. I mean it may seem that there's a lot of different outreach done, but it's, some are targeted really, to having some of the deliverables met by having school kids or residents, or visitors coming up and do the work, or have more science specific outreach. So, it's all really useful and productive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Members, any other questions? Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to, you know, totally agree with Member Paltin's approach about the advertising aspect. Because, you know, some of our I guess, for example, the visitor channel that we have here in years' past, and there are books written about come and see the secrets of Maui and, you know, visitors who, the more adventurous types, they might want to go up into these areas without realizing that they could be doing some harm to these areas, not only to themselves, but maybe going into an environmentally sensitive area that, you know, they shouldn't be in. So, I'm all for that to see how we can educate, you know, not only our locals but the visitors alike. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm sorry. We're having technical difficulties with *Akaku*. Did you . . . I didn't hear what you said. So, did you have a question for them or it was a summary.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, because you never listen to me so I not going repeat myself.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The teacher is speaking.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I'm fine, Madam Chair. I feel hurt now. No, no problem. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we could have, this would be interesting to have a possible discussion for a budget item to do education on this because I think it's valuable for the visitor to know that water is precious right and how we preserve and take care of and honor these watershed projects. So, I hear . . . are you writing that down, our Budget Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I'm looking at not using water rates to fund those PSAs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, this is good discussion. We're having problems with *Akaku*. So, I'm going to take a short recess. And anybody have questions for the Department? Anybody else? Oh, you do? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I'll wait --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, after the recess.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --until the recess is pau.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So at 3:20. Hopefully that will be done. So, I'll take a short recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:                      3:10 p.m.**

**RECONVENE:                3:34 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Meeting is now called back to order. It is now 3:34. Thank you for your patience. We had one question from Keani for Water and Keani is not here. Oh, here she comes. Skipping into the meeting is Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. And then we'll have Public Works continue after this. So, thank you. Keani?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay, so the question that I wanted to ask before we went on recess was when Member Molina asked about the amounts that were not given like 100 percent of what was being requested by the organizations, and there was some reluctance in your voice or some caution in your

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voice when, Ms. Blumenstein, when you said that we'd be, you know, getting close to or, yeah, close to \$3M. So I think there was, I'm not sure who asked, I don't know if it was Chair or one of the other Members, about how much the Department generally likes to stay below, like a cap for grants, for these grants?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you. There isn't a fixed cap. I mean we look at both revenues and needs from probably of the previous year. We look at where we're at in statewide goals. Freshwater initiative is to provide about 5 percent dedicated funds to watershed protection based on how much water you deliver and we're at way beyond that, like, 7½ percent, or something. We know that our funding level now is about 4 percent of our overall operations budget. So that's fiscally sound. So, if, you know, if there, and then, again, I mean it's not, even though it's not a fixed fund, we have to kind of balance both the, is there new specific threats that need to be aggressively addressed this year, something that's going to impact the work that the grantees need to do over the next three years and then we have to take that in concentration. So, every year has been a little different. There hasn't been like a flat budget. There's been somewhat of an increase but again we really try to look at the project's, the merits of each individual project. What should be funded with water rates even though . . . I mean all of it is important work but we really have to keep that nexus to what the funding is coming from.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Blumenstein. With, so you mentioned that the amounts that were recommended by the committee is an increase from last year. Did the Department have to propose increased water rates in order to provide that increase in funding?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: For FY '21, so again this is just the committee's recommendation. It has not been proposed by my area, so it could be some changes. So, we don't have a tie-in to water rate increase. No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I think there was one last question, but I'll yield the floor. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have questions? Mr. Molina, you're fine since I cut you off the last time? Mr. Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Member Rawlins-Fernandez brings up something interesting. You know, during the Waikapu Town Center [sic], the project offered to, and we put some money into their watershed project. Is it something that could be under the County or is that just a private partnership?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Blumenstein, are you familiar with that?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Well, in terms of water source for the Waikapu project, that's private water source. But I think, again, I think what's, Member Rawlins-Fernandez brought

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up that there is certainly a need from other alternative sources that's not water rate funded to sustain and expand watershed protection, including private water purveyors.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Seeing no other . . . you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Last one. So, for, with the handout that we received from The Nature Conservancy, Kapunakea Preserve, I think Member Sinenci asked how many acres that was and it was 1,300 acres and the gentleman from Haleakala Ranch, Mr. Jokiel, said that they budget about 4,000 to 5,000 per acre. So, if you just took this one preserve at 1,300 acres, that the watershed that is being protected here, and multiply that 4 to \$5,000 per acre that would equal \$5.2 million to \$6.5 million for this one preserve. So, I think I would like to work with the Department to figure out some kind of formula that water rate payers, County water rate payers, would pay into these grants and how much should be supplemented either, you know, through General Fund, which is, you know, property taxes or other sources, because I don't think it's fair that the water rate users shoulder all this, you know, on their own, without the help of other Maui residents, or Maui County residents paying into this as well. Because, you know, Molokai is a sole-source aquifer and while they do receive State funding, I think the County should also use funding from our non-water rate users to support the efforts of increasing aquifer recharge. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I agree with you. So, this is not quite on the agenda because it's really a budget thing. But I think when you do your review of, when we do our review of OED, Office of Economic Development, there's some opportunities to put funds exactly from what you said so that we can then support, you know, the different watershed organizations. I so agree with you. This is really, really important and the steps that the Department takes, I know they want to do more, there's just not enough with the pot that they have, so if we can help supplement and at the right time have that discussion, then we can preserve our future. Because that's what we're really talking about. I mean Molokai's example of what they did was the pictures say a thousand words. Phenomenal. Right? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Chair. Good idea.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, any other, any other questions? Seeing none, I'm going to defer this so we can bring it up again if we need to and go into a short recess so that Public Works can come and set up.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.** (Excused: AL, RH, KK)

**ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.**

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have Jordan Molina in the audience. I think Rowena Dagdag-Andaya is testifying at the Legislature. So, Jordan, thank you for being here. I'm going to call a short recess. So, maybe five minutes, Members. Thank you. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 3:41 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 3:46 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Thank you, Members. Welcome back to the Water, Infrastructure and Transportation Committee.

**ITEM WIT-69: OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (CC 20-85)**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It is now 3:46, and we're going to start the second part of this meeting which is Operational and Budgetary Review of the Department of Public Works, which is WIT-69, and I want to thank Budget Chair, Committee Chair, for sending us all of this. Otherwise we would be doing . . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're so welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was a long Council agenda thanks to you, but it makes sense because we do this anyway. Right? So, appreciate it. I think Ms. Kama has to leave in a little bit, so we're going to be with bare quorum, but I wanted to start . . . thank you, Mr. Molina, for being here. Rowena Dagdag-Andaya is testifying in Honolulu at the Legislature and Alice Lee also was testifying for important things that concern the County. So thank you, Mr. Molina, for being here. You can take it away.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh yeah, both of them. You can call him uncle.

MR. MOLINA: No, that's cousin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh cousin. Oh. Okay.

MR. MOLINA: All right. Good afternoon, Members of the WIT Committee. My name is Jordan Molina. I'm the Deputy Director of Public Works. Here today to get you guys ready for Budget Session so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MOLINA: --let's dive into this. So yeah, what I'm going to go through today is just kind of a recap of what we got approved in FY '20 and just briefly some of our accomplishments and challenges this year. Okay. So, first, our structure. So, we

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have our Admin program, which is my office and the Director's office, seven of us in there. We have our DSA Division which handles all our permitting. Engineering Division, who handles all our technical reviews and our CIP program. And, of course, Highways, which is our guys on the ground. So FY '20, our whole budget was \$49 million, with a total of 291 employees. So, I'll first jump into the Admin program. The one thing I find interesting is our Charter mandates. There's only four items in there but that spills out into all kinds of stuff that we have to oversee. So, of course, we administer the building, housing and subdivision codes. Approve subdivisions pursuant to the subdivision ordinance. Plan, design, build and maintain the County's highways, drainage and flood control systems and anything else the Council and the Mayor throws our way. So, for our Admin program, as I mentioned, we have seven staff or positions with a total budget of \$628,000. Last year's increase over FY '19 was primarily due to collective bargaining salary increases. Just . . . (inaudible) . . . as far as what I've seen, we actually do in this office, so, yeah, we're the top reviewer for our Department's budgets, making sure that they spend the money and appropriately. Also overseeing the procurement process and the contract managements from both our goods and services as well as the CIP projects. Review our organizational structure and look at adjustments just to meet the demands of the Department as the times change. And overseeing all the hiring and employee evaluations. Responding to the public. So, we take, everyone in the office takes calls, e-mails, letters, multiple times a day, from everybody and anybody and that keeps us busy, you know, all the time. Representing the Department. So, we in the Admin program, often meetings with the various agencies, State, Federal as well as members of the public in addition to coming here to provide resource to the Council and its committees as well as supporting the Mayor in his efforts by participating in task force that he puts together and working groups. I had mentioned a resource for County Council boards and commissions. So we also staff the Public Works Commission and that's directly out of the Admin program. We also serve on the Planning Commission and as an ex-officio member, so often I will be down there sitting through matters that may pertain to Public Works. MPO Policy Board. We are also a member of that and as I mentioned earlier as well as providing resource to the County Council. That wraps it up for Admin. So, let's get into DSA. So, again, a review of our Charter mandate. Administer building, housing and subdivision codes. Here's a listing of all the various building codes we oversee within Title 16. In addition, we have our subdivision and construction permits that we administer through DSA. Additionally other enforcement responsibilities, community beautification, encroachments, litter control, accessory dwelling reviews, in addition to reviewing applications that come from the Planning Department as well. So, for our budget, we have two funding sources. We have General Fund, which, of course, comes from property tax, and we have a revolving fund which comes from plan review fees which is outlined in Title 16. Thirty-seven staff under the General Fund and 16 under the revolving fund with a budget of 2.55 million for our General Fund component and \$1.7 million for our revolving fund. Notable increases for FY '20 were provisos for a fee study relating to the permit fees and increased premium pay in our revolving fund for the MAPPS implementation. So, the proviso on the General Fund was 500 . . . or \$50,000 for a user fee study to look at the permit costs relating to electrical building, plumbing and grading permits. We are still in the process of scoping that RFP to go out. Some of the areas that DSA

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oversees. So, here's some of the numbers from this past, these are FY '19 numbers, as far as how much permits we've taken in and the revenue that we collect from these permits. So, you can see for building, we almost had 1,500 permits in FY '19 which is actually a drop from the previous year, FY '18. Then some more of the other permits we oversee. Yeah, so, I guess, the big moneymaker, if you want to call it that, is the building permits. Generally everything is on the decline this year from FY '18 as far as the private sector construction is concerned. Here's another thing I mentioned earlier. DSA serves as our central coordinating agency in routing applications from the Planning Department for their various approvals and entitlements that they grant. FY '19 we had 77 reviews and comment letters go out. Down below are kind of the most frequent ones that we deal with. SMA reviews, EAs, change in zonings, just general comments and then Board of Variance and Appeals reviews. And here's just a recap of what we've collected in FY '19 from our permit program. So, you can see we got \$5.3 million collected through DSA. So, that takes us through DSA. Jump into Engineering next. So, of course, our Charter mandate. Approve proposed subdivision plans in conformity with the subdivision ordinance. Engineering provides the technical reviews for subdivisions as far as establishing the scope of the required improvements, road improvements and drainage improvements being the primary one, and also traffic safety if warranted. We also have a land section that goes through and reviews the survey maps to, you know, verify they are complete and accurate. It's not unusual to find errors in survey maps we receive. So, this section does have their hands full. The other charge to Engineering program is plan, design and build and maintain our highways and drainage systems, through which they implement the CIP program, as well as respond with emergency repairs and emergency maintenance that come up throughout the year. And respond to requests from the public, whether it be speed humps, better lighting, traffic signs, other safety improvements. And of course, our other duties. Facility maintenance. So, we are charged with the maintenance of this County campus here which is three structures at this time, Kalana Pakui, which is where the Planning Commission is held; Kalana O Maui where we are in and the old courthouse. So, we handle all the maintenance that comes up, as well as assist the departments that are housed here with any sort of renovations or improvements that they are seeking for their offices as well. And then they also provide support to our baseyard facilities for their facility needs. So, our budget for Engineering program, 35 staff, which is down by two due to the relocation of our MS4 program out to Highways, and \$3.88 million in funding which that decrease is also related to the MS4 transfer. CIP. So, FY '20 we had a total budget of \$41.6 million in CIP funding. Our main focus is repair and replacement of existing facilities. That is where most of our focus is. It can be broken down between our road pavement structures and slope stabilization which is starting to become more of an issue, and our bridge and drain program, of which that's about \$32 million of the CIP budget, just for maintenance of these facilities. And when we talk maintenance, it's primarily replace like-for-like. Sometimes there's minor improvements. Like road resurfacing will sometimes have sidewalk improvements associated with, for the most part these are all existing rights-of-way, existing drainage, infrastructure that we're just looking to keep up and functioning. Traffic operations is sort of where the expansion, if you want to call that of our assets. Bikeways and sidewalks, we're always looking to try and add more where we can. Safety. This ties into our responding to the public. We primarily rely

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on feedback we get from the public about hazards they see or issues that need to be addressed and so we have CIP funding to respond to those. Intersection improvements, you know, for pedestrian crossings and just for better traffic management through our intersections and then, of course, our road extensions. The big one of which right now is North-South Collector in Kihei. And we have roughly 8.2 million for the traffic operations. Lastly, we have the facility maintenance which is about 1.7 million for this year, majority of which goes into this building we're in currently. And that's it for Engineering. So, last but not least, Highways. So, of course, our Charter mandate for Highways. Maintain our highways and drainage and flood control systems. We operate in six separate districts covering the entire County. They're, pretty much the main functions are listed here, vegetation control along the edges of the roadway, pavement maintenance through our pavement preservation program, drainage maintenance which involves cleaning of our basins and our culverts, illegal dumping and homelessness cleanups which is becoming more of a routine activity for Highways, as well as emergency response. So, we are one of the responding agencies whenever an emergency event gets triggered. Our most common ones are brush fires, floods, landslides, trees in the roads, sign replacements, pothole patching. Additionally, they do provide service requests to the different departments and even to the public in certain instances that's within our purview. What makes Highways unique is that each district has its own unique situation where Hana operation is going to be different from West Maui, which is going to be different from Lanai, which is different from Central. So yeah, each one has its own little team that has their unique set of needs. We also have a Traffic Operations section who oversee our traffic signs, our markings, as well as our traffic signals. We do also run the street lights. We pay the bills, keep the lights on and through our electric bill we have a contract with Maui Electric to do the maintenance to replace lights whenever they go out. Additionally, we have our MS4 program which is to manage our general NPDES permit, which we now hold for our Central Maui drainage infrastructure as a result of being designated as an urbanized area in the 2010 Census. So, some of the other duties that falls on the Highways. Sidewalk cleaning which involves planter strips and shoulder areas in front of properties, landscape planting and beautification which primarily is related to tree maintenance, street trees, and, of course, our drainage maintenance as far as if there's any obstructions that go through and, of course, litter control, abandoned vehicles and illegal dumping. One of the other services that our Highways' staff provides is vehicle repair. So, we, our garages, both in Wailuku and out of the districts do provide services to other departments for the maintenance of their vehicles as well as providing procurement services when they got to get replaced. So, our guys down in Highways will go through all the procurement with what is needed for the other departments to replace vehicles. And as I mentioned earlier, service requests to County departments and even coordinating with the State in certain circumstances. One good example is on the west side. DOT does not have a baseyard out there so when there's major issues our West Maui Highways' guys are kind of the frontlines out there. All right. So, the special maintenance program covers the garage services as well as our MS4 program. So, we have General Fund, 40 positions in there, as well as \$5.3 million in funding. This program got changed last year because we had in a prior year moved our pavement preservation crew into the Special Maintenance Fund, so, that they would come out of General Fund. That was



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decided last year to undo. So then they got pulled out of this General Fund back into Highway Fund. At the same time we moved the MS4 program out of the Engineering Division and down into the special maintenance program and so that's what the changes from FY '19 to '20 reflect. The revolving fund is related to the highway beautification and we use that money for street tree maintenance. Couple of provisos we got for this special maintenance program was Olinda tree removal which, I believe, Councilmember Molina proposed in last year's budget. So, at this time we have the trees mapped out, we have a priority ranking for their removal; however, this is going to be the first time that the Department's undertaking a project of this scale. And so, one thing that came up was questions about the environmental review and the permitting. So, right, we're at this point, we are evaluating those concerns. It's looking like we're going to have to hire a consultant to help us, you know, get through all those reviews and comments that's related to it. So, we may not go out for construction this year because these funds are operations, so they'll lapse at the end of June, and we're at towards the end of, or the beginning of February. So, likely an EA may be required which is, you know, several months, so we might not be able to get it out in time. Yeah, so in the past it's kind of been an emergency response and kind of limited in scope. I think the last one on Piiholo, there was a vehicle that was struck by a falling tree, and so response was taken to go address the area, but nothing as extensive of what we are looking at for this project. The other proviso was relating to Kahana Nui desilting basin which I know you guys recently heard that budget amendment. So, we did the initial cleaning towards the later half of 2019. We were able to get support, and sorry this is an error, it's not NRCS, it's U.S. Fish and Wildlife funding. But the funding was restricted to Kahana Nui but what we found out during this project is there's a lot more planning and permitting required even to do maintenance work in these established drainage structures. And so, we're going to use this funding to kind of get us, help us address all those hurdles, if you'll call them, so that we can go ahead and keep up with the maintenance. West Maui in particular has, I believe, seven of these pretty massive drainage structures which we inherited and recent, or, I guess in past, there had been a general permit statewide that covered maintenance which the State is no longer renewing and so now each of the counties are on their own to secure their own permits. And so, we are embarking upon that adventure now. Okay. Highways Admin. So, this is the bosses for the highways' crew. Seven in that office, \$18.7 million. A lot of what that fund is are the administrative costs of a special fund. So, there's a lot of the employee fringe that has to get pulled out of the special fund and transferred into the General Fund for things like the retirement and health benefits. Also in here is our debt service from our CIP projects. So, whenever we bond a project, we got to pay back those bonds, and they're coming out of Highway Fund. Also for equipment purchases too, which get bonded, they'll come out of this program here. In '20 we did get a FEMA grant to allow us to install a emergency generator down at our Wailuku baseyard so that we'll get emergency power down there. I know that's in the design phase at this point. All right. Our field operations. Road, bridge and drainage maintenance. One hundred thirty-four personnel in this program. Which is up by 11 from last year due to our pavement preservation transferring back, as I mentioned, and also the expansion positions that Council approved for us to grow our pavement preservation program. The funding for this one is 14½ million, which is down a little under 4 percent from

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last year, primarily due to a one-time purchase we made, I believe, in FY '18 and '19 for our streetlight conversion project. So, everything's been bought at this point and pending installation. And our last component in Highways is our Traffic Management, and we got 15 guys in there at \$1.56 million budgeted. Decrease from last year for equipment that you guys approved for us, which we appreciate. Thank you very much. So, to recap some of the activities from this last year. Year one of turnover in Admin and Council. This is always a transition period, primarily because policy interpretations change, new direction, so Admin needs to make adjustments which then trickle down to how the divisions operate as well. This year we had the director confirmations for the first time. Unfortunately that, you know, kind of took longer than I'm sure most of you anticipated, you know, and that kind of just creates uncertainty in leadership for that first half of the year. So, things are kind of in limbo, per se. Administrative workload. So, we probably, we're probably, probably one of the bigger departments and one Admin Officer. She's got her hands full. So, that is definitely one of the challenges with Public Works. I do not know how they did it before with Wastewater and Solid Waste in there too. It's unbelievable. And, of course, our new payroll system that got implemented this year was another growing pain we had to endure. DSA staffing vacancies due to attrition. You know several long-time County employees retired this year so those will be big shoes to fill. Transfers out of the division. This happens often where we end up stealing from each other as departments. It's not uncommon. It happens. And then Engineering staff in general. It kind of coincides with the construction market. When the construction is good in the private sector, engineers make more money. We lose out on candidate pools and so it's been an ongoing challenge to find engineers to fill those positions. With DSA MAPPS, it's also going to be a big challenge going forward. You know, our guys have been involved with the development of this program, I understand we're getting nearer to the development and so we'll soon be into the testing phase, and that's going to require a lot of overtime for our guys to just, you know, make sure all the bugs are worked out and things will function. For DSA also we got the service center relocation coming up which, I believe, is later, or early FY '22, I believe. I got to check with Management Department. But all our staff from DSA who's down in Kalani Pakui and I believe our staff out at the Lono Building on Lono Ave., where our plumbing, permit inspectors are located, all those guys will be now going to our new service center down in the Maui Business Park. DSA also works on the Code updates. So, last year they got the energy code updated and the next big project for them will be the electrical code. These code updates are kind of onerous. What happens is there's a federal or a national body that creates the updates. Then there's a state body that reviews the updates. Then each county has to adopt their own updates. Unfortunately, by the time all that happens, these codes get a little outdated. So, I think that energy code was the 2017 version that got adopted and same with the electrical code, I believe. Okay. Engineering program. Again, vacancies, probably our biggest challenge. Our surveyor. We have not been able to find a surveyor to come work for us, partly due to market forces also. So, we are chewing on this one. What we've done is we've contracted outside services to help us with our reviews which has helped us catch up so far but I think ideally we still want to have a surveyor on staff. And then similarly with the engineers. Between guys stealing from each other and just no candidate pool to really go to. Yeah. Those are our staff challenges.

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Fortunately, CIP for the most part has been pretty consistent as far as being able to get all the projects out and encumbered. Of course, the federally . . . maintenance is our focus as well as those federally-funded projects so whenever we can get the Federal monies we chase those for sure. The new stuff is what's a little more difficult than the repair and replacements, and so that's kind of our more challenged area, as well as the staff in that section has been hurt by guys stealing. Highways. Baseyard space. So, Wailuku baseyard is pretty cramped right now and with the expansion of our pavement preservation program we are looking to figure out where we're going to put all these people and equipment. Drainage maintenance. Again we mentioned about the Kahana Nui situation. The permitting requirements are mounting and, I guess, we've never had a good handle of that in the past. There's more scrutiny being brought about and so we are working to try and get adjusted to better routinely perform maintenance for our drainage ways. Pavement preservation. That is one of our shining stars right now. One feedback I got from the crews is that, you know, it's kind of a morale booster. Our guys are getting really into doing pavement preservation and they enjoy the work and they're getting good at it and so we have a core team that's in the pavement preservation program but they'll go out to the districts and kind of train some of the district staff to participate also. So, yeah, that's a good program we got going on right now. And then, of course, illegal dumping and homelessness is becoming more of a burden on our operations. One example is, like, Upcountry, Makawao. I think last month or the month before, \$4,000 in just tire disposal, just from tires picked up on the side of the road. So, we don't know what to do about that other than public education and people have to start caring for their community a little bit more. And then the homeless cleanups. Yeah. We often participate when either Housing or other agency leads a cleanup to provide waste disposal services. We'll help move vehicles onto trailers to be hauled away. You know, those are big efforts also that eat into our maintenance schedule so yeah, those are a challenge for Highways. Equipment. So, our equipment purchasing has been going really well. I understand that almost all of our equipment for FY '20 has been purchased or is in the process of being contracted for. Certain on-island vendors have been giving us difficulty in timely delivery of our equipment but, luckily, we are starting to engage some guys from Oahu, and they're starting to win some of our bids so that's helpful, and that's all I got. Willing to take any questions on budget. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Jordan. Well done. I guess your Department is important frontline and you do a lot of the work that people send in complaints including my office receives them. So, I wanted to thank you for that. I have a question from one of my staff persons who is going to be taking a trip and seeing some of the federal people that are connected to the West Maui Kahana desal...wait, where is it? Yeah, Nui Desilting Basin. So on that, I remember when we had the discussion. The question from my staff was, what was the problem with the design, I guess, of the basin? I believe the Federal government designed it, and then they turned it over to Public Works. So, can you give us some kind of summary of that?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. So, there is one component that never worked. There was a relief valve and it was always stuck open. I'd have to get more familiar with what issue that exactly caused but I guess my understanding was just from a management standpoint

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there's a lot of material that comes out of these basins. I'm talking thousands of yards of material and that's a lot of trucking and we don't where know where to put it all at this point. So, this first cleanup, I think we just found some areas where we were able to move it out of the drainage way and stage it nearby. But that's part of what we're going to be looking at with that assessment is essentially the material handling component of cleaning these basins. Yeah, these things are huge and they collect a lot of material. So, I don't know if that answers your question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, thank you. I guess it's old methods versus modern technology or opportunities but thanks for this and we'll send them off to the conference with this. That was one of the questions that came up. So, hopefully that will help. The streetlights. Because I know it came up that we had, we were going to be changing our streetlights? Do you have a status for that?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. So, all equipment had been purchased to do this replacement. Unfortunately, there was a lawsuit filed against the project citing concerns about impacts to seabirds and so that challenge has been in the courts. I'm not familiar with the status of that at this point. The Director had been handling that matter directly. So, at this time we're paying for storage of those streetlights until the matter gets resolved. I guess what's difficult for the Department is other counties have done similar projects without issue. The State goes ahead and does theirs without issue. And we just happened to get challenged on our attempt.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And, okay, I'll guess I'll turn it over to the Department, Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. You know and I got to apologize. So, I'm going to be one of those Members that have to leave at 4:30. I know you mentioned Member Kama and we're already operating shorthanded. I know we're shorthanded three Members at the start of the meeting on a committee week, but, anyway, I just want to thank Director Molina for the update on the eucalyptus trees removal in Makawao. I know we got some challenges with now having to, like you said, look at an EA which is, can be a prolonged process. And, also with the . . . thank you for the revelation of the State not having that baseyard in West Maui and, I guess, during the budget process we'll have some questions about should the State be taking some responsibility, or at least providing some financial resources to the County if we got to take on some things that, you know, could belong to them. And, then, again, the illegal dumping and its impact on the operations of the Department. So, I take it there's going to be a proposal for an increase in appropriations to address this ever-increasing and escalating problem. So, again, here, we may need to ask the State for some additional resources to help us. Because, you know, this, the homeless issue, illegal dumping, it's everybody's problem, not, shouldn't just be ours. So anyway, just I had about 22 questions for Mr. Molina but I'll wait until the Budget Session. So, but thank you for the update.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Not that many, seriously, but anyway, just kidding. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And you have to leave. So, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and then Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I did have about 22 questions and I'm not joking. So, I have them printed here and I can submit them to the Committee --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay and we'll submit it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --and if perhaps the Committee would like to submit them on, or the Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --would like under your signature. Yeah, because that's about all we have time for, yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I was going to try to minimize the amount of written correspondence back and forth but we're running out of time and I have to leave too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Ms. Paltin? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I didn't write down my questions but if you could ask about fines and what the initial amounts were and what was actually collected and how the Department sees their settlement authority, like, you know, how Corporation Counsel has to come to us for amounts more than 7,500, I was wondering if there's any kind of standardization of the settlements of fines. And then I wanted to clarify when you say Highways program, does that just mean all the roads that the County is responsible for but, or are you talking about like Highway 30 and like that?

MR. MOLINA: Madam Chair and Member Paltin, it's any County road of which like Highway 30 turns into at some point up in Kula so the backside of Haleakala from right before Ulupalakua all the way to I want to say it's almost where the Hamoa, Haneoo Road, I believe. That is all County.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then so Highways also covers like roads, streets, places that are under the County's purview? Highways Division is the one that covers that?

MR. MOLINA: Correct. Anything, any County roadway is ours in addition to all drainage ways that are not privately owned. So, if you want to talk about State contributions, that's kind of a big one they threw on us, is all the drainage ways is our problem.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the part where it said FD, like, GF, GB, HF, FD. GF is general funds, GB is general bonds, HF is highway funds. What is FD?

MR. MOLINA: Federal funds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Federal funds. The other, so for the cleanups and like that, thank you. I know that Public Works responded to our request around mile marker 14 and I heard, you know, Kanaha might be doing some sweeps. But is there an overall plan within the Administration as a whole as to not just keep moving things from here to there but like a consolidated plan so we're not moving folks from Kanaha to mile marker 14 to various locations where they are and, like, an overall coordinated plan to address the folks that we're moving out and dumping all their rubbish for them? Or is it just kind of a spot issue at this moment?

MR. MOLINA: At this point my understanding is we respond to specific locations that are flagged, you know, either through repeated complaints or just because they can be seen so visually. Typically there'll be a coordinated effort by Housing, DEM, all the various agencies to both do cleanups as well as provide service to those homeless people. As far as a larger plan, at this point I'm not aware of one but that's how we've been operating currently. And Housing is, the Housing Department has been taking the lead as far as coordinating these efforts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then when you mentioned about the decrease in building, electrical and plumbing, is that due to the transition or is there any specific reason that you're aware of that there's a decrease?

MR. MOLINA: Those are primarily market forces. So, that's all usual, or usually private individuals seeking building permits, or development permits, and that's all just driven by market forces, stock market, what have you. And so, there had been a growing trend and FY '18 was kind of the peak, and so now things are settling down a little. And so, yeah, what the indications show is that FY '19 was a drop from '18.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And, just based on, like, the year's previous history, is there any coordinated effort within this Administration to try to streamline the permitting process between Planning and Public Works? Or any kind of initiative like that for us to try and find a better way? Some guys saying like, you know, silos, or whatever?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: MAPPS.

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MR. MOLINA: I mean, yes in various forms. It's always something that's talked about as far streamlining that process. One of the benchmarks is how quick these turnarounds happen. And so, typically, it's a 30-day target. Different permits have different timelines attached to them. For the most part, DSA has been hitting their review targets. Because Planning is not here to defend themselves, they're on the slower end of getting their reviews turned around and, I think, Fire also is kind of slow, but, yeah, that's about the extent of it at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I'll get my thoughts together before the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, Mr. Molina, as he says has to leave at 4:30 p.m., and Keani Rawlins had to catch a flight so she's gone. We're at bare quorum. I would like to defer this. I think we've heard the . . . good job, Jordan. I have to say your years of working with, throughout the County before you got to this position gives you a broader perspective of really what's happening overall. I appreciate your knowledge. Members, I hope you don't mind, I'm going to...you're fine? Okay we're going to lose quorum so thank you very much, Department. I didn't even ask Jen Oana if you have any comments from Corp. Counsel.

MS. OANA: No comments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, I'm going to defer this item and I'm going to adjourn this meeting.

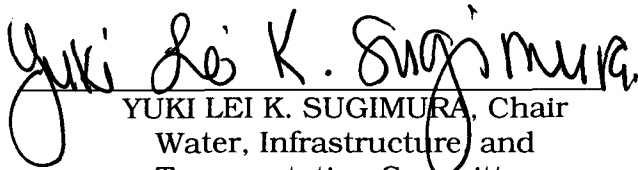
**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.** (Excused: AL, RH, KK, KRF)

**ACTION:            DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So it's now 4:32 p.m. Thank you Members for being here . . . (gavel). . .

**ADJOURN:**    4:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair  
Water, Infrastructure and  
Transportation Committee

wit:min:200203:mg

Transcribed by: Mary Lou Green

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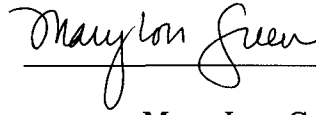
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**CERTIFICATE**

I, Mary Lou Green, hereby certify that the foregoing represents to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, in Kula, Hawaii

  
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Mary Lou Green