

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 8, 2020

Online Only via BlueJeans Link

CONVENE: 9:04 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Vice-Chair (in 9:14 a.m.)
Councilmember Riki Hokama, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

STAFF: Shelly Espeleta, Legislative Analyst
Chester Carson, Legislative Analyst
Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst
Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary

ADMIN.: Michele M. Yoshimura, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Wendy Nathan, Budget Specialist V, Budget Office, Office of the Mayor
Lori Ann Y. Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Linda Munsell, Deputy Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Clyde (Buddy) Almeida, Housing Administrator, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Ruth Griffith, Senior Services Division Administrator, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Curtis Jamison, Grants Management Program Manager, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Deborah Stone-Walls, County Executive on Aging, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
David C. Thyne, Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Bradford K. Ventura, Deputy Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Cindy Kagoshima, Business Administrator I, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Mimi Desjardins, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, Executive Consultant, Go Maui, Inc.
Kelly Pearson, CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Maui
Cheryl Vasconcellos, Hana Health
Cynthia Santiago, Executive Director, `Ohana Makamae

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

April 8, 2020

Stan Franco, Standup Maui
Courtney Ikawa, Big Brothers Big Sisters
Leonard Nakoa, Jr.
Lisa Darcy, Share Your Mana
Sanoe Ka`aihue, Executive Director, Women Helping Women
Bevanne Bowers, Executive Director, Maui Mediation
Suzanne Antounian, Executive Director, Maui Adult Day Care Centers

Chelsie Evans, Maui Hui Malama
Danielle Bergan, Mental Health America of Hawai`i
Sherri Dodson, Habitat for Humanity Maui

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please come to order? It's 9:04 on April 8, 2020. A reminder for everyone to please silence their cell phones and please mute your . . . okay, I'll mute everyone. So, I'll mute everyone's mics. And if you're a testifier to please hit the icon with the little video camera to turn off your video. And when it's your turn to testify, then you'll turn on the camera and then turn on the audio as well. Okay. So, I'm the Economic Development and Budget Committee Chair, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. And with us, we have Member Shane Sinenci. Aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yay, we have video for you again. Okay. Member Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Aloha kakahiaka, Madam Chair, and greetings to you and my colleagues and everyone else from beautiful Makawao.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, guten morgen, to you --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Guten morgen.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: --which means good morning in German for all of our German friends.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Riki Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Member Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ooh, I like your green background. Aloha kakahiaka. Very nice. Okay. So Member Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning from Kula.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. Pro Tem Tasha Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. And Committee Vice-Chair King will be a few minutes late. Okay, and then we have monitoring the meeting, Deputy Corporation Counsel Mimi Desjardins. From the Office of the Mayor, Budget Director Michele Yoshimura. Joining us today, we have the Director, Deputy Director, and staff from Department of Housing and Human Concerns; and the Department of Fire and Public Safety. And we have monitoring, Committee Staff: Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier; Legislative Analysts Shelly Espeleta, Chester Carson, Lesley Milner, and Kasie Apo Takayama. And we have one item on the agenda – *EDB-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the County of Maui*. Okay. We'll begin with public testimony. And just to let everyone know, we will be taking a quick recess at about 9:55. The Mayor will be having a press conference that I think everyone would like to be able to hear the updates from Mayor Victorino this morning. So, we will be taking a quick break so that we can hear the press conference at 10:00, okay. So, but we'll take public testimony until that time. Oral testimony via phone or teleconference will be accepted. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans meeting link – bluejeans.com/597785199 as noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony should have participated via phone conference by dialing 1-408-317-9253 and enter meeting code 597 785 199, which is also noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is highly encouraged by sending your comments to edb.committee@mauicounty.us. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your name – first and last. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Participants who wish to view the meeting without providing testimony, please view a live cable cast Akakū Channel 53. You can also visit mauicounty.us/agendas to access live and archived meetings. For click here link to the BlueJeans meeting and for up-to-date information on the budget, please visit [maui . . . www.mauicounty.us/2021budget](https://www.mauicounty.us/2021budget). I remind the Committee Members, Administration, and the public to please be patient with us as we continue to navigate through these uncharted waters. Okay, Members, I will proceed with public testimony starting with Mr. Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez and followed by Ms. Kelly Pearson. Okay. So, will you please unmute yourself and if you have video, turn the video on and I will start the timer. Mr. Blackburn-Rodriguez.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Good morning, Chair.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Before we start with your testimony, I'll recognize Committee Vice-Chair Kelly King. Aloha kakahiaka.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Aloha kakahiaka. Aloha to Mr. Blackburn. I see him here joining us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He's our first testifier this morning.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Chair. May I begin my testimony?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, please.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Thank you. Good morning, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Members of the Committee. My name is Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez and I'm testifying on behalf of Go Maui, Inc. Information on Go Maui can be found at our website: gomauinc.org. I'm testifying on housing initiatives in Mayor Victorino's budget before your Economic Development and Budget Committee. Go Maui supports a set aside of 5 percent from real property tax revenues for the Affordable Housing Fund and an appropriation of \$3 million for the First-time Homebuyers Fund. Maui is living in unprecedented times. There's a great fear walking among us and some may say this is not the time to expand funding. Maybe we should pause and wait until better times return as surely they will. This is the argument that was made to President Abraham Lincoln when he was urged to stop construction during the Civil War on the new Capitol dome where the Statue of Freedom would stand at its very top. His response was reported in a memoir of the period was this, the President remarked that there were some people who thought the work on the Capitol ought to stop on account of the war. People who begrudged the expenditure and the detention of workmen from the Army. He went on to say that in his judgment, the finishing of the Capitol would be a symbol to the nation of the preservation of the Union. "If people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign that we intend the Union shall go on." This is also the message of your meeting today. Under difficult circumstances but with the confidence that your actions are sending a strong enduring message to the people of Maui County and that we too will go on. I respectfully ask you to continue to vote for the future of Maui County to continue your support for affordable workforce housing and for the nonprofit community now serving on the frontlines of providing human critical . . . critical human services. In closing, I want to wish you a Happy Passover and a Happy Easter, and to thank you for your time, and may God bless your work on our behalf. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Blackburn-Rodriguez. Members, you have questions for our testifier? Okay. Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony, Mr. Blackburn-Rodriguez.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: Aloha and thank you, Chair.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Next is Ms. Kelly Pearson followed by Cheryl Vasconcellos.

MS. PEARSON: Can you guys see me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. PEARSON: Okay. Good. Good morning, Council Members, Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair Lee. I hope you and your `ohana are safe and staying healthy. I'm Kelly Pearson and I'm proud to serve as the CEO for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui. Now, more than ever, we, as a community, need to come together and do our share to keep all of our people safe and healthy. Our budget request for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 requests a 10 percent increase from last year to support the operations of our eight sites in Central, West, East, Upcountry, and as of last year South Maui too. My team started working remotely when we learned that our facilities needed to be closed. The mornings include daily club directors' meetings, daily club team meetings for all staff at each site, weekly leadership meetings, and frequent admin. team meetings. Staff had been training on a national website at Spillet Leadership University, and they also use the mornings to plan their afternoon programs and activities. We immediately began communicating with our funders and partners. We explained what we were trying to accomplish and found that most of our partners were willing to work with us. During the past week, we have been trying to create registration and consent processes that are easily accessible and simple for parents to complete. Our website has lots of resources in it and helpful information as well. Our Virtual Clubhouse opens up for all of our sites at 2 p.m. and goes until 6 p.m., pretty similar to our physical club hours. Here's just a few of the many things that are happening at our clubhouse. The virtual clubs have scavenger hunts, art competitions, the staff do riddle solving activities, stop and walk which is just like a Simon Says then they do the opposite of what is said, Jeopardy, origami, and Family Feud. Kihei members are participating in Just Dance time where staff and members learn new dances from animated characters and they cheer each other on. Popular activities in Kihei also include Kahoot, which is an online multi-player trivia game and fitness to the max. Another popular game is Scribble, which is a Pictionary-style game. And members also challenge staff to Roshambo. I had to ask my staff what that was, and they said it was like rock, paper, and scissors. I never heard Roshambo before. They also learn sign language. Members really enjoyed learning the alphabets and numbers one through ten, and they were challenged to spell their names using sign language. We also have an academic activity called math magic where staff guide members through an algorithm that lets them uncover their birthday month and the day as the final product. Following the step-by-step procedures staff will help members uncover the order of operations and in first properties inherent in the math magic problems. In Lahaina, members took a virtual tour of the San Diego Zoo and have conversations of about healthy lifestyles and the importance of eating healthy and exercising during quarantine. One member asked the staff if they . . . can we do this all day or on the weekends too? And at the end of the day she asked the staff if they just could all stay on and she didn't want to go. One of the parents sent an email to our Club Director thanking him and his staff and saying how much her child enjoyed the sessions. In

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

April 8, 2020

Paukukalo, one of the mom's expressed that her kids enjoyed the Zoom Clubhouse time. She said it gives her a break to finish her work at home. In conclusion, we work hard every day to rise to this occasion to serve our young people who need us most. We are delivering innovative Virtual programs. We know that it is important to have safe, fun, and interactive activities. Our staff discussions are constantly focused on virtual and cyber safety. Whether we are in our clubhouses or working remotely, we will continue to give our young people the hope and the opportunity they deserve. Uncertainty causes fear, and I am grateful for the many heroes in our community. For me, my staff are my heroes because they make sure our young people understand that while we're going through some challenging times, there is light ahead. Thank you for your continued support. And as a community, we are better. We're stronger and we will get through all of this together. Please stay safe and healthy. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Pearson. We have a question for you from Pro Tem Kama, and followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Kelly, for being here today. You know, with you having to work remotely, what is the average attendance of your students as they participate virtually?

MS. PEARSON: That's a good question. So, we started programming last week Wednesday and the struggle was we didn't want to . . . we started in Lahaina Wednesday and the rest of the clubs on Thursday. And we didn't want to have any kids accessing Virtual Clubhouse without consent forms. The challenge has been to get those consent forms to parents and not physically get 'em back from them. So, for whatever the reason whether it's connectivity or just ability, so we've just made our registration forms fillable and, hopefully, that makes it a little easier. I even wanted to resort to like take picture and send 'em to us, but I don't know if that's legal enough. But, anyway, to answer your question, so last week Wednesday we had, I think, three in Lahaina. We started on Thursday. As of yesterday afternoon, we had about a hundred kids participating. And the problem has been we've had--what you call that?--inquiries from parents. But it's just that whole getting that paperwork. And I have a hard time allowing kids in without that consent forms. We're connecting with them through parents' emails. That's why we need parents. It's not like a kid can just jump on. What I do want to say, so after four days we have about a hundred kids. We have more inquiries and it's growing every day. We went with the Zoom platform because we have the capability. I think each platform has about 200. So, if we could fill each Virtual Clubhouse, because they all have their own, that'd be great. I'll keep you guys posted on the numbers though. But in four days that's where we're at.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: You think that the lack of computer is an issue with the kids at the club?

MS. PEARSON: I think that's part of it. And, again, I'm sorry and I meant to have those numbers in front of me. So, I think during the first two weeks we had club directors call parents to let 'em know, first of all, that this was coming up and, secondly, to almost do like a poll. So, we do have numbers as far as how many kids don't have access to

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

April 8, 2020

either the devices or the connectivity. Yesterday or the other day, although I'm following the rules about staying home, I did go down to the club and I opened up the clubhouse for my staff. So, we had about . . . we have about 20-something tablets and iPads . . . laptops that were donated. And so, the other day we had our tech company, Tech Partners Hawai'i, pick up about 15, I want to say 15 laptops and 5 tablets, and they're going to download some curriculum that we have selected for the kids. So, we're hoping, through the Club Directors, we can figure out which kids need it most. So, does that help the mass, not really, but I think it will help those kids that don't have a device at home to do it. And we have a couple more, but we wanted to do a first round and see how that works. And, if anything, I'll pursue more grants that can maybe purchase some devices. We've already had conversations with grantors, so.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Kelly, for that. And I'm looking forward to you sharing more information with us as we continue the dialogue about ensuring that our students have access to whatever materials or equipment that they need to be able to, you know, to keep on par with their education because they are our future. So, thank you, Chair. And thank you, Kelly.

MS. PEARSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair, and mahalo, Ms. Pearson for being here and for your testimony. We can sense your dedication to our keikis as a mentor for them. So, thanks for that. Though my question was, does your budget include any travel? Because departments have cut their travel budgets, and so that was my question, if it includes any travel funding?

MS. PEARSON: Not as far as travel with an airplane. What we did include in this year's request, prior to all of this happening, I think was a portion of a van purchase for our Paukukalo Club. We've just recently, I think over the course of five years, replaced the van one year at a time because all of our vans were getting older. Paukukalo probably has the oldest right now and that's . . . I think that's in there, which again we could either modify, remove or put the funds somewhere else. So, and that was prior to COVID-19 so. But other than that, no travel.

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

MS. PEARSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Kelly.

MS. PEARSON: Good morning.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I wanna say, we appreciate all that you're doing for the kids being creative, being innovative. If . . . if there . . . I know you probably worked on your budget weeks ago, perhaps months ago, so if you have any changes you'd like to make because of these special circumstances that we're in, I think it's important to every Councilmember to keep our youngsters occupied in a positive way. Now that they're home, they probably need more physical and mental and, you know, academic stimulation than if we weren't confined to close quarters. So, please feel free to submit perhaps additional requests as necessary, because I think it's really important that we hover over our kids more now than ever before and try to give them very positive guidance. Thank you.

MS. PEARSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay, Members, any other questions for Ms. Pearson? Okay. Seeing none. Mahalo nui for joining us in today's meeting and for your testimony, Ms. Pearson.

MS. PEARSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Next testifier we have is Cheryl Vasconcellos, followed by Stan Franco.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Anyway, I think I've got everything on correct. Can you see me and hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Okay. Thank you. I'm Cheryl Vasconcellos. I'm the Executive Director of Hana Health in Hana. I submitted written testimony with a lot of background information and I'm happy to answer questions. I did want to say that given the current health crisis that we're all facing, the remoteness of the Hana District has become even more evident than it's been in the past, which is almost hard to imagine. But given that we're a small community with limited resources, the need to be more self-contained and self-supporting has become more evident than ever before. We have been operating out of a 55-year old medical facility for 23 years now. We've outgrown the facility and we've been providing services and programs . . . *(inaudible)* . . . This new project, the Hana Health Rehabilitation Support Center, will allow us to extend supportive services, particularly behavioral health care, telemedicine, physical therapy, which is a huge need in the community, and relocate some of our offices from outside trailers to in-house office space. And I can tell you when it's raining over here, and we have to use the restroom or use the copy machine or talk to another staff member but need to walk outside to do that. Our patients are also doing the same thing. It's a difficult environment to operate in. So, we have already completed all of the design elements and construction documents and submitted those to the County to obtain a building permit. We have secured part of the funding and are looking to USDA Rural Development fund to fill in any gaps using the loan program. But it's really critical at this juncture, and prior to this, to secure as much support for the new building as

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

April 8, 2020

possible so that we don't have to borrow it all. I think you've gotten a lot of testimony in a day under these circumstances from over Hana . . . over 100 Hana residents who are supporting this new facility and the services that will be made available in the facility. So, we're really hoping we can count on your support as well. And I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Vasconcellos. I hope I'm saying that correct. Okay.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Vasconcellos.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Vasconcellos?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members, any questions? I see Member Sinenci and then Member Paltin with questions for you. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair; and thank you, Cheryl, for your testimony. I just wanted to make sure that other Members had some of the matching funds that you have already solidified for the project.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Okay. We had a \$500,000 State grant-in-aid to help us develop the construction document. Hana Health also secured almost \$80,000 in matching support to continue the development of construction documents because that came close to \$600,000. That's been completed and funded and we're currently in the permit process. We also have, for construction, we secured a million dollars in HRSA infrastructure development fund, and we also have a 2019 \$250,000 State grant from the Legislature . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair? Yes, so if Cheryl could be available as a resource when we get to that point? And then we can have you come on if we need more information, Chair, if that's okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Or if Cheryl, you can . . . or if she can send that testimony into the Committee?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: I gave you that yesterday. Have you received it? And there's a whole sheet on our financing included with --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: --the testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Cheryl.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Members, any objections to having Ms. Vasconcellos as a resource?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Paltin, question to clarify Ms. Vasconcellos? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Vasconcellos. I didn't catch the name of your organization in the first part.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: We're Hana Health. We're the federally qualified community health center in Hana.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hana Health?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you're already in the Mayor's Budget Proposal?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: I don't know that we are. I don't think so. I think Councilmember Sinenci requested that we be included.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And can you repeat what was the amount?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: We are requesting \$500,000. Five hundred thousand dollars in County support.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay, Members, any other questions for our testifier? Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Cheryl, how many people did you say that you serve every year in Hana?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Almost 1,800.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Eighteen hundred?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Thank you.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Cheryl, for being here. And you mentioned that one of your funding sources is the grant-in-aid from the State Legislature --

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --or GIA grant. And is that for this year?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: The one that we expended already was a 2013 appropriation that was released a year and a half ago. And in 2019, we secured a \$250,000 appropriation that is in the process of being released. We have another request into the State for 2020 in the amount of \$750,000; but given the status of Session, that it's being suspended, we will not know the result of that for probably a few months at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, you're not expecting the 750,000 from the State Legislature?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Well, I'm hoping it's still an active request but because the Legislature is being suspended for a few months they're not taking up any bills now.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, you're not sure of that. So, you're not counting the 750,000?

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Right. I don't know for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Any other questions? Seeing none, we'll move on to our next testifier. Mahalo, Ms. Vasconcellos.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Thank you. Did you need me to stay on the line or if you need something, you'll contact me? I wasn't clear on . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We also received your written testimony.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I guess Member Sinenci, do you have Ms. Vasconcellos' contact information?

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, we can contact her. Thank you, Chair. Thanks, Cheryl.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, if Members have questions, we can call you at the appropriate time if you're available --

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --to answer questions later.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Right. Thank you very much. Bye-bye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for joining us. Aloha.

MS. VASCONCELLOS: Thank you. Bye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Next to testify we have Mr. Stan Franco and Cynthia Santiago. Mr. Franco, if you'll please unmute yourself and you can proceed with your testimony. Mr. Franco? I heard you earlier. Okay. We'll come back to Mr. Franco. We'll go to Ms. Cynthia Santiago with `Ohana Makamae.

MS. SANTIAGO: Hello. Good morning. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear you just fine.

MS. SANTIAGO: Okay. So, I'm testifying for `Ohana Makamae. I'm the Executive Director of a behavioral health services agency in Hana, East Maui. At this time, we are considered essential services and we continue to provide our counseling through Telehealth. We provide substance abuse treatment and domestic violence intervention as well as mental health. `Ohana Makamae is going on 21 years of service in East Maui and we have strong ties to the behavioral health community and the judiciary, which we have built throughout the years. As well, we are highly experienced in Hana, and our experience in substance abuse treatment provision is unmatched. It's also extremely needed, in particular now as calls for our services continue through this crisis. Yeah, so services are ongoing. Our offices are closed with the exception of our food distribution, which we do bi-monthly. I wanted to also emphasize that we have master's level staff and clinicians who are serving the East Maui community. And I'm just, today just asking for the continued support of the County of Maui. It is unquestionable that we've been providing excellent continuous service and we have a good continuum of care and we would want to ensure that our services, which are valued and trusted by the Hana community, continue to be funded through the County. And I also want to thank the County for the continued support that we have been receiving throughout many years. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Santiago. Okay. We have questions from Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Santiago, for testifying this morning. I just have a couple of questions. How many clients do you have, or have you served prior to COVID? And since you're doing Telehealth virtually how many clients have actually made appointments or are you servicing now? And are the clients satisfied with the service going and doing things virtually?

MS. SANTIAGO: Yes. Hi, good morning. Thank you for your question. Our services throughout the year, we serve about 400 clients. We have a rural community. We provide case management as well and we have, you know, whole families that we provide services to in different capacities. At this time, our services are going well. We meet weekly with staff and they provide feedback as to how things are going. In particular, our substance abuse treatment program for adults, we're able to provide services either via Skype or Zoom or by phone. Not everybody has the capabilities, so we have purchased tablets to assist. Normally, we meet three times a week with our substance abuse treatment clients for our intensive out-patients. And when it isn't possible, we provide one-on-one individual sessions which we do normally anyway. So, there has been some limitations but overall, we are continuing to serve our clients. Same with mental health, all our mental health clients, except for one, have been making their Telehealth appointments and our domestic violence intervention clients are also responding. So, those are the services that the County supports, which is the Adult Substance Abuse Treatment, Domestic Violence Intervention, and our Mental Health services. So, I think I've answered your questions. It is not as good as when we are meeting in person of course but we do continue to provide counseling as best and as we can right now.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, if I may, I just want to do a follow-up. I was just trying to see how many people are actually meeting since COVID has occurred and there's no in-person, face-to-face. I just want to know if maybe they're not meeting or maybe they're not able to meet because they don't have the right equipment or support that's needed. And that's what I was just looking for – numbers. Thank you, Chair.

MS. SANTIAGO: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Ms. Santiago.

MS. SANTIAGO: You're welcome.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay, Members, any other questions for Ms. Santiago? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, I had to use the restroom. But I was wondering if you can let me know or clarify how much money that you are requesting and if you knew if you were in the Mayor's Budget Proposal?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. SANTIAGO: Yes, we are a line-item and we have been for many years. Our request for adult treatment services and domestic violence intervention is equal to what we got last year, which is approximately \$150,000. And for our counseling services is about 50,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, is that a total of 200,000?

MS. SANTIAGO: Approximately.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I think it's just under Substance Abuse Treatment Programs, so it doesn't list in our Program Budget how much specifically you got so thank you for that information.

MS. SANTIAGO: Right. You're welcome. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: In the proposed budget document that lists all the departmental . . . on Page 10, 'Ohana Makamae is listed for 96,259. So, they may be getting some other funds. So, are you getting some other funds from the County?

MS. SANTIAGO: No. I'm sorry and you are correct. That is 150,000 for both counseling of treatment services and the mental health counseling.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: From the County. So, you're getting another pot from the County --

MS. SANTIAGO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --besides the 96,000?

MS. SANTIAGO: Yes. We get monies for mental health counseling services as well as the substance abuse treatment and domestic violence intervention.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, that's another pot in the Department of Housing and Human Concerns?

MS. SANTIAGO: Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: We can ask the Director. Okay.

MS. SANTIAGO: Yes, it is another amount. Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. We'll wait. I'll ask the Director for clarification, Chair.

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

April 8, 2020

MS. SANTIAGO: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Members, any other questions? Okay. Seeing none. Thank you, Ms. Santiago, for your testimony and for being here today.

MS. SANTIAGO: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We have eight more testifiers and it's 9:44 so we'll take two more testifiers and then we'll take a quick recess for the Mayor's announcement. So, Mr. Franco?

MR. FRANCO: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, Stan Franco followed by Rob Weltman. Mr. Franco, would you like to proceed with your testimony?

MR. FRANCO: Yes, I would.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. FRANCO: Yes, this is Stan Franco with Standup Maui. Good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Morning.

MR. FRANCO: Chair and Committee Members, I am, of course, I was watching the Housing budget and I want to talk a little about the Mayor's proposal. The three items that he proposed – the 5 percent of the homeless for the Affordable Housing Fund, and I think always getting more money is a great idea; three million for the first-time homeowners fund, and I think that is also a good idea; and 14 million for the purchase of Waiale land. We have been advocating for the County to buy land so we can build housing for our people. Now, these are good ideas but one of the concerns that we have is that is this the right ideas for now? We've been talking and you have approved a resolution for a comprehensive affordable housing plan and we would hope that we could use that plan to look at all these different items that have been proposed in the budget but we don't have that as yet. So, I wondered if it would be a better idea as we approach this fiscal year if we would look at maybe using the TIG Report that the Council has already done and some of the recommendations in that fund. For example, the frustration by the developers and individuals going into the County is on plans, review and permit. If we could maybe shorten the time. I think there's complete agreement, generally speaking, about doing something about our approval process. Now, once we have the plan in place then we can look at developing where we want to put our developments; that plan will spell that out. For instance, on the Waiale land, again, I think it's a good idea to purchase but we don't know whether this is a wise investment for now because I'm not sure if there's any independent appraisal report or whether there might be issues that should have been studied, like whether there's burial sites or others. So, while I think the ideas that the Mayor present are good, I think maybe we should wait on those

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

April 8, 2020

ideas until we have a comprehensive affordable housing plan. Maybe we should move on the ideas already established that has been agreed upon that are part of the TIG Report. So, while I don't dispute or question the plan of the Mayor, I think maybe we should look at something different. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Franco. Okay. Members, any questions for our testifier? Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Franco, for your testimony. On your proposal to use to address the TIG Report that the previous Council did, are you suggesting that we put money into the Planning Department to shorten that permit time to add more staff?

MR. FRANCO: I think we should move on that then if, you know, money has to be put to the budget for Planning or any or Public Works, for instance, I think would be a wise investment so we would already something we have agreed upon that has been worked on then we should move on those priorities right now. Yes, to answer your question.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, okay. All right. Thank you for your testimony.

MR. FRANCO: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay. Mahalo nui for your testimony, Mr. Franco, and for joining us.

MR. FRANCO: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay, next is Mr. Rob Weltman. Mr. Weltman?

MS. MILNER: It looks like he may have lost his connection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll go to Ms. Courtney Ikawa. If you could please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

MS. IKAWA: Hi, good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hi. Good morning.

MS. IKAWA: Aloha, Council. My name is Courtney Ikawa and I'm the Regional Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui. As we navigate a difficult challenging landscape by taking our missions to heart and strongly believe that together we're defenders of potential. We defend the potential for our community to grow stronger, supporting each other through these challenging times. And now, more than ever, children need the support of a caring adult and our Big Brothers and Big Sisters are answering the call. We transitioned working from home about three weeks ago and our staff continues to serve our Big Brothers Big Sisters community by keeping our one-to-one matches connected through phone calls, texts, video chats, email and even snail mail. They

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

April 8, 2020

continue to do their monthly check-ins with both the Big, Little, and parents. And we've seen just a really cool thing happen between our Bigs and Littles and they're getting super creative. We got pictures of a little sister and big sister baking together via Face Time and going through all the steps and they sent us a picture of their final product. And their next outing is going to be painting together. So, we look forward to seeing that happen. We're also providing online resources that Bigs and Littles can enjoy together, such as, interactive games and apps. We're facilitating interactions through video chats for all of our high school Bigs and Littles in our afterschool program. So, that's happening still once a week for about a half an hour, and that's been very successful as well and the kids are always super excited to see their Bigs. We're also virtually interviewing families looking for help for their children and potential volunteers looking to serve as mentors. And we're also serving as a hub for families by providing resources for those experiencing loss of income, food, insecurity, lack of health care or anxiety due to the uncertainties around COVID-19. And we're doing our first virtual parent workshop this Friday via Zoom. And so, we just wanted to thank you, Council, for your continued support and your time today.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ikawa. Members, do you have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you so much for joining us and providing your testimony this morning. Okay. Members, I just received word that the Mayor is starting his press conference. Is there a preference to recess now?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, please.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I would like to, Chair, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Recess.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is he on Channel 53?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, it hasn't started yet. Oh, okay, okay. Okay. I think we can take one more testifier, if that's okay with Members.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Okay. Our next testifier . . . I don't see Mr. Weltman reconnecting with us, so we'll go to phone number 796-6421. 796-6421?

MR. NAKOA: Hello. This is Junior.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, aloha. Will you please identify yourself for the record?

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

April 8, 2020

MR. NAKOA: Oh, yeah, big mahalos. My name is Leonard Nakoa otherwise known as Junior from Lahaina and--what you call? I'm here to testify this morning in support of the lifeguard staffing. I heard that there is a request for nine more lifeguards, which I think we should do it. I think we should keep the request in. Last week, this year, at D.T. Flemings had one incident where one teenager had to be rescued and was very lucky, he was very lucky that had the lifeguards to begin with just to be there, period. And so, I think that we should keep the staffing at where it is because we need 'em. Talking to one of the lifeguards that actually work at the tower, he said was lucky that they was there. And also, he said that lately just because the beach empty from the tourists, which is good, give the beach a rest, you know, can breathe, but lately with that pandemic thing where everybody is trying to survive, we get plenty divers and get plenty da kine people out there diving and fishing so it's kind of good that they're out there. And then, just some small kind background, the teenager was a boy of a well-known Lahaina `ohana that live right here in Kahana and we was blessed that the lifeguard was there. No joke. Coming from my heart 'cause as family and lucky da kine the lifeguard was there. So, as much as possible, whatever the budget is for the lifeguards you should back them up and make sure we get . . . they get 'nough staffing and all of that. And yeah . . . please, make sure you guys get 'nough staffing. And then also allow this . . . the only thing I've been saying over years that Lahaina should have this. And unfortunately for the situation we're in but I think this is awesome so we no need drive all the way the other side or like me I no need catch the bus go all the way the other side. But, yeah, thank you guys so much for your guys' time and your guys' hard work every single one of you guys from the Administration to all you guys doing for the island of Maui. Mahalo, mahalo, mahalo. God Bless. And wash your guys' hands too.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing, Mr. Nakoa.

MR. NAKOA: Okay, I good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Mr. Nakoa. Any questions for our testifier? Okay. Seeing none. We have five more testifiers on the line waiting to testify. I understand that the press conference has started now. So, I'm hoping that our testifiers wouldn't mind just hanging on for a little bit while we take a quick recess. Chair Lee, do you have an estimated time do you think we should recess for?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Maybe 15 minutes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Fifteen minutes. Okay. So, it's 9 . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you explain to all of us how to get to the press conference if we don't have television right now?

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I believe it's live on Facebook.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So it's nine . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's not on Akakū?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just I wanted to listen.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, so I'm going to recess our meeting. Okay. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, it's 9:59. Oh, all right. I just received word that the press conference is pau.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He didn't take any questions. It was just a quick announcement.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: What did he announce?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, do you think that we could ask somebody to tell us what it was?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think we should ask . . . I think, Madam Chair, we should take that recess but also for the benefit of ourselves and the public, find out what was announced. And you can just have somebody from the Administration come online if not the Mayor himself. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's see. Okay, how about we take another . . . we can take another testifier since they're online and I'll ask if someone would be willing to just announce, make that announcement here from the Administration.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN (*playing recording of Mayor Victorino's press conference*): . . . that they, the Maui Health Care [sic] System, the State Department of Health are on it right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, mahalo, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Fifteen employees tested positive from Maui Health Care [sic] System.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN (*playing recording of Mayor Victorino's press conference*): Dr. Pang and others are in there with his staff working on upping and increasing the amount of testing. In other words, we will be looking very closely at the cluster that has been formed and what we need to do there. I want to say that the Governor has assured me that help is on its way that we will have expedited testing for these essential workers. We also want to say mahalo to everyone on the front lines of this pandemic. We know these are difficult times and we're taking immediate action to assist our health care workers. The County is redirecting all available personal protective equipment to the hospital and their staff. We want to make sure that we take care of them and our emergency responders immediately. We continue to stand together. We're doing everything possible within our power to protect the health and safety of you, the citizens of Maui County. I want everyone to know that we're all hands-on deck right now. We're going to do the best we can to make sure all of our workers, our health care workers, as well as others, are protected to the best of our ability. I call upon you for prayers to make sure that we continue, and with the good Lord's will we will come out of this stronger than ever. Thank you very much. Aloha."

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, I received a message from the Budget Director that the live press conference with the Mayor will begin shortly on Channel 55 in case you want to break for that or just let the public know.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. A live press conference or the replay?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: A replay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. Do Members have a preference?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I'd like to watch.

VICE-CHAIR KING: I would like to see that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Me too. I would like to see the conference.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I have family in the hospital.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Is ten minutes enough time?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'd just see how long.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll recess for ten minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, it's 10:03. We'll reconvene at 10:15.

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair, is that Channel 53?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Fifty-five.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Fifty-five. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, it's 10:04. The Economic Development and Budget Committee will recess until 10:15. We are now in recess. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

RECESS: 10:04 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:22 a.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(gavel)* . . . It's 10:22 on April 8th and we will continue with testimony. We'll check to see if Mr. Weltman was able to reconnect. And then we have Lisa Darcy followed by Sanoë Ka`aihue. Ms. Darcy, will you please proceed with your testimony?

MS. DARCY: Am I . . . did I do this right? Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, I can hear you.

MS. DARCY: Oh, good. Thank you. Good morning, everyone. I had to just . . . I have to share the giggle. Chair Lee, when . . . after the press conference it was just like two minutes you went what and I just have to say, your humor brings just that little bit of levity in all of this intensity. So, I just wanted to say thank you for being so real. And I can see you clearly so.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thanks.

MS. DARCY: Good morning. Good morning, Committee. I can't thank you enough for having to deal with these issues and depend on so many people to give you information and process it in such a short amount of time so thank you so much for allowing our testimony today and making it happen and adjusting to all of our needs. If you don't know my name, it's Lisa Darcy. And over the past 15 years I have testified in many capacities and gained some deep insights into the needs of those with physical and mental disabilities, addiction, and most recently with the issues which keep people in poverty and living unsheltered, houseless. I encourage you to invest in Share Your Mana, which is the nonprofit that I founded a couple of years ago as it is dedicated to the collaboration of all of those needs. With the proper funding, Share Your Mana can augment and fill in many pukas in service that the County and nonprofits are struggling to fulfill. Just a very brief background. Share Your Mana was incorporated in October of 2017 and received the FEIN, our identification number, in November of 2017. And again, it grew out of the vast experience I've acquired with direct individuals who are unsheltered, have disabilities that are seen and unseen, treated and untreated with mental illness and substance abuse, and just poverty-related issues. Share Your Mana

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

April 8, 2020

has responded immediately to the systematic reduction of services, for those unsheltered, while the shelter in place restrictions began. And I think this was a big learning curve for everyone in how that community has been affected, and we were able to respond in real time with Chilis on Wheels. And you may have heard their name and they just jumped right into action and we formed the Maui Rapid Response Team. We sprang into action within 24 hours of assessing the needs on the ground and by performing outreach to those who are most affected. And while it took some agencies and some County agencies sometimes like a week just to get a feel for it, we were able to mobilize immediately because of our small and nimble abilities. And that's where we want to be able to support the County and other agencies. Just to let you know, we operate on about \$10,000 a year and it's all grassroots and public support money. And one obvious need is that the basic first aid and wound care has got to be addressed in order to provide the safety for individuals and if they don't end up in the emergency room and even food and water. So, we are trying to respond to those needs in order to keep the emergency room free and those resources being used to what is currently happening. As you can see in Share Your Mana's website that we started doing first-aid kits and laundry about two years ago. So, we're ready to activate and mobilize.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Darcy. Okay. Members, questions? I see a question from Chair Lee followed by Committee Vice-Chair King and then Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello, Lisa. Nice to see you again. Can you hear me?

MS. DARCY: Oh, yeah. I can see you very well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. You know, I'm really happy to have met you recently and to know of the many services, significant services, that you provide to the community, especially our homeless community. So, do you . . . does your organization have a 501(c)(3)?

MS. DARCY: Yes. So, that's what happened in 2017. We became incorporated and we . . . I did all the paperwork that required that, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Great.

MS. DARCY: It's an operating foundation, a corporation, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is your request for \$10,000 or more?

MS. DARCY: At this point, I would request more in that if Share Your Mana actually had an office and a vehicle, anything that could support not working from my computer from hot spots. I can't even imagine how much more support that Share Your Mana could provide for the County and other agencies in just being that nimble. So, absolutely. Even enough monies to, just for a year or two, provide office space and the infrastructure so that would more likely be closer to \$50,000. And we could use more, I mean, if it's

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

April 8, 2020

available. There's no doubt. I guess that I've operated on \$10,000 a year, though that's been very, very challenging.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Lisa.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Committee Vice-Chair King followed by Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Lisa. I really appreciate you logging on and so we can see your face. And I'm very proud to have been part of the original board for Share Your Mana and when we all . . . when you did get the nonprofit status. So, we've been working on these things for a while. What I wanted to ask you was, were you successful? I forwarded your information to the Managing Director. Have you been . . . have you heard anything back as far as potential for getting some of the emergency funding? Because I know you guys are out there in the trenches right now with the homeless, in the midst of all this. So, I wanted to ask you, one, have you heard anything back from the Mayor's Office on getting any of the emergency funding that we, the Council, has approved? And two, if you can talk about what your team is doing to keep yourselves safe as far as working with people who potentially could have COVID?

MS. DARCY: Yes. Thank you. So, no, we have not heard back. And I recognize how busy everybody is and we will remain attentive to any correspondence and received no replies back yet. And so, I, personally, had a lot of training over the course of my career in terms of protection and safety and we, as volunteers, all are following whatever information is being shared. And masks, gloves, washing, I don't know how many of you, how much hair has come off of me and layers of skin from scrubbing all the time, but we take it very seriously. We are no good to anyone if we get sick or if we are a transmitter, and that is not something that is negotiable. And if anybody is unable to comply with that then they can work from home or if they are in an at-risk group or attending to an at-risk group then they need to even pay attention to whatever recommendations come out from the WHO or the County and elevate their requirements – turning their clothes inside out, taking them off when they get home outside, washing every day. Whatever is recommended we go, you know, I keep a bleached cloth in my car even though if I don't touch or get near anything I've shared, I still wipe my steering wheel, my keys, my car door. Those are habits I've acquired over the years recognizing that I have a huge role to play in either people being successful in staying healthy or them becoming ill. So, yes, we are very attuned to that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I'm glad to hear that. I've been a little bit worried about you because I know you're out in the trenches.

MS. DARCY: Absolutely.

VICE-CHAIR KING: And I know you put the welfare of others before yourself a lot of the times. So, my last question is when you started working on the Chilis on Wheels was that actually supported by Chilis or who was the actual financial support for that? Is that the corporation, the restaurant?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. DARCY: Share Your Mana merged with Chilis on Wheels to create the Maui Rapid Response Team.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Right. But who's behind Chilis on Wheels?

MS. DARCY: So, Nicole . . . you'll meet . . . I think she submitted some . . . an email request. She's not online. I didn't . . . I told her that it would be nice for everyone to see her face. She's busy, busy doing some hub work right now but she submitted an email with information, a letter. She and I met about six months ago and started talking about how to create an alliance for just such an event. So, we had already been mobilizing in terms of who . . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, but is that a nonprofit or that's not --

MS. DARCY: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --connected with the restaurant Chili's?

MS. DARCY: No, no, no.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, okay. I just wanted to find out . . .

MS. DARCY: Yeah, she actually does The Trailer of Trash and, yeah, I'll do a little commercial for her because her work has also been very much out of sight, you know, kind of like Share Your Mana has. We've just been doing the work with community members so, yeah, we were a natural fit to form the Maui Rapid Response. And that's just an alliance of activated supports. The funding has come now through making a Facebook page and people and uniting our, both of our groups and our supports together. So, that's where all of the donations have come from --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you.

MS. DARCY: --is aligning both of our supports.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I appreciate it. And I appreciate your request. I think that we need to get the funding out like immediately rather than waiting for the next budget cycle because you're doing stuff now that you are requesting. I'll share your . . . the email that you sent to me with all your information -- what you're doing, what you're requesting with our Chair Lee, if I may, Chair Lee, and we'll see if we can get maybe another push on looking at the emergency funding possibly.

MS. DARCY: That would actually be . . . that would be a priority in terms of us having worked seven days a week for a month and really trying to fill in those gaps that would be highly appreciated.

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you so much for being here. Thank you for your work. Really appreciate your continuation.

MS. DARCY: Oh my god. Thank you all. Deep bow, gratitude.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. Hi, Lisa. How are you?

MS. DARCY: Hi, Sugi [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Hi. So, I'm not surprised you're working this hard to help others. It seems to be your heart and soul. So, I'm just curious, do you have a line-item or are you in the budget that you know of under Share Your Mana? Or are you with a grouping or category?

MS. DARCY: I have no idea. In fact, I didn't get the . . . yeah, even the information for the meeting today, you know, until like 7:00 . . . like 12:00 today. So, I don't know. I just am . . . I'm grateful for an opportunity to share what's happening. And I depend on you to plug in whatever you think makes most sense.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, I see. So, and then your \$10,000 that you talked about basically it just supports your existing program now that you've been working on since November of 2017 that's been your kind of baseline cost?

MS. DARCY: Well, so that \$10,000 originally was just for, you know, when it was submitted like a couple of weeks ago and since that's gone by the amount of resources that we have used and are using I would absolutely reassess that amount to, you know, \$50,000 in that with the infrastructure. The amount of communication that could be established with the County and with agencies could be exponential. So, I would definitely reassess that amount today versus how much it was before.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. And one last question, Chair. So, you've applied with Department of Housing and Human Concerns? Have you?

MS. DARCY: Share Your Mana?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Has your --

MS. DARCY: Oh, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- organization applied for . . . You just decided to come and testify now? You haven't applied with them?

MS. DARCY: Yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, I was really behind on what's happening in terms of this Committee. Yeah. I didn't have --

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. DARCY: --any information on it, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice seeing you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

MS. DARCY: Thank you. You too.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a question from Member Paltin. And just a reminder for Members to please ask clarifying questions of the testimony that was provided. And if you would like to ask Ms. Darcy, you know, to come on later when the item comes up, we can see if she's available. Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Darcy, for your presence today. I have two main clarifying questions. I also made a nonprofit. And I just wanted to clarify if you have your IRS tax-exempt determination letter and are in good standing. When my nonprofit applies for governmental grants, we have to go through the compliance express. But that's more for the State but just checking if you have those items as well as the FEIN?

MS. DARCY: I do. Here's my good standing and here's my IRS determination. I have my little file already. So, yeah, I have them, all my, you know, my important documents that I didn't know I had to do until I got the notice that I didn't do them. So, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Awesome. Awesome.

MS. DARCY: I'm good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much.

MS. DARCY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, I just was wondering if briefly you could share with us the systematic reduction of services that you spoke of because from our end we're hearing about all the things that are going on and not so much what you mentioned about the systematic reduction of services. If you could just briefly share a little bit of what you meant by that.

MS. DARCY: So, and this is an interesting difference between actually being with individuals that are going through these changes. So, it's through the lens of individuals that are experiencing this. When the County parks closed, when the shelter in place went in, those are through the eyes of individuals and through the lives of people who have a place to shelter in place and have bathrooms. And so, when those went in place for the safety of the community, which we all understand, and in conjunction with there being no recognition of these needs still getting met for these individuals that comes down as

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

April 8, 2020

a reduction of services to individuals for their basic needs. Not having access to water is, I mean, that's a daily requirement. Not having an access to use a bathroom or shower, those can become public health issues for an individual in a matter of a day or two. And even though that community recognizes it was an attempt to protect the entire community, and it does and it did, without that immediate placement of those without that going in tangent it creates public health issues and needs that, again, Share Your Mana is supporting the point of view to support the ER from staying, you know, bogged down with things that are preventable. So, things like that and also individuals getting citations who are living in their cars that's still happening because they're not sheltering in place, but they don't actually have anywhere to shelter in place. So, while we recognize it's important for people to not be out it's punishing people who are in poverty and have actually no other resource. If there was a parking lot people could go to or somewhere where they could go, acknowledging that they don't have an address and or that they have a P. O. Box or that they're not trying to be part of the problem. They are actually trying to be part of the solution. So, through the eyes of the individual, which this is affecting in a very negative way, that's how . . . that's . . . that's why it seems that I come at things like I maybe miss my, you know, good morning, how are you today, and I apologize for being so short but, you know, these issues are really, really time sensitive. And again, if you don't have those eyes on the ground that can translate the direct effect, it becomes, in their eyes, a full-on reduction of services and just basic needs, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much. I don't feel that you're coming off short at all and translating that for us because I think it's needed not only for us but for the broader community as well as the Administration. And I like your suggestions of, you know, just possibly providing a parking lot with Porta Potties and water access, you know. In seeing some of the stuffs at Pu'u Kukui Watershed, their mobile shower units are awesome. You just hook up a hose and the PVC and they have a stall around it so, you know, that might be something to look into as well. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. We have a question from Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Real quick, Ms. Darcy. Does your nonprofit inventory the unsheltered like how many or, you know, if there are kūpuna, children, age brackets, those types of things?

MS. DARCY: Thank you. I, actually, do not have the capacity. As a one person who walks around with their computer and no office and having to write all my own forms and then trying to contact all the different agencies and collect donations, you know, I don't take a salary, and that's kind of problematic. My little car is falling apart. I can give you what I see. And what I see is that there are quite a few kūpuna that are not getting the services. There are children. There are a great amount of people with disabilities. And I say great amount and I don't want to exaggerate it but one or two who have to, you know, amputees or in the mental illness, you know, that's a disability when they're not getting even some basic needs met it's almost like three or four capable people of, you know, needing things. Their needs are more dramatic and often more acute. I would

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

April 8, 2020

love to be able to have, to hire somebody that could make forms and that I could just, you know, carry an iPad around and pop things in. I don't have that capacity, you know, trying to figure out when my website goes down and navigate, you know, my web page and, you know, I don't under the circumstances that I'm . . . I'm working.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Members, any other questions for our testifier? Okay. Seeing none. Thank you so much, Ms. Darcy, for all you're doing especially for the community that sometimes gets overlooked and making sure that their needs are met. We really appreciate, we all deeply appreciate the work that you're doing. Mahalo for . . .

MS. DARCY: A pleasure to be part of this collective, yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I'm glad you found the link to provide testimony this morning.

MS. DARCY: Okay. Good. Have a great rest of your day.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, thank you, Chair. I just wanted to real quickly tell Lisa, if you could follow-up with me, I'll find . . . there was a parking lot in South Maui that Mitch, one of the homeless people, was actually managing and allowing homeless people to be on. So, maybe we should follow-up on that together and see if that's still happening and if we could resurrect it if it's not.

MS. DARCY: Absolutely. And I just wanna say that I do believe that creative solutions can work and they can be done beautifully, and would love the opportunity to explore that at another dialogue.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Maybe we can resurrect our working group in South Maui.

MS. DARCY: Yeah. Right on.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Mahalo, again, Ms. Darcy. Have a great day. Aloha.

MS. DARCY: Thanks. Bye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Next, we have Sanoe Ka`aihue, followed by Bevanne Bowers.

MS. KA`AIHUE: Hello. Good morning, Madam Chair. Good morning, Council. Thank you, guys. Excuse the hair. It's quarantine time so no time to do hair. But mahalo, mahalo, mahalo. You guys are doing such amazing work. Thank you for having these testimonies right now. I just want to tell you that I am the Executive Director for Women

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

April 8, 2020

Helping Women and I am so blessed to be here. Currently, we are operating in our shelter. You know, it's no days off, no days off for us. Essential business. And so, we are here with our 24 advocates doing work and shelter. Currently, our traditional offices are closed to walk-ins but, you know, more importantly for us is we're doing shelter work and so that continues. Domestic violence doesn't stop. In fact, we are expecting more of an increase in the next week or two, and this is not just in our state but nationwide. And I just, you know, we're still having our shelter in place on Lāna`i, in Hana, we do have our office there, and then Lahaina. So, the funds that you guys give us provide us with the manpower or the woman power to be able to fill these offices with vital advocates. And this year, we're asking for a tiny increase compared to what, you know, is being proposed by perhaps some other nonprofits. We're asking for a 3.5 percent increase and this is just to offset some of the inflation costs that have been happening. I will tell you that our hotline has not stopped ringing. We are currently housing 15 women and 16 kids, which as you can imagine is quite a bit when you have a lot of little ones running around trying to find activities to do. We are keeping them busy. We are keeping them well fed. Our community has been amazing with giving us produce and toilet paper because that is a hot commodity everywhere, Tylenol, those kinds of things. But for us to continue these services we want to be able to do that for the long haul not just for right now because we know that life, as we know it right now, is going to change and so we want to prepare for that moment when things get back to whatever normal looks like in the future. And so, I'm hoping that you continue and not forget the domestic violence programs out there and continue supporting us. And, you know, we thank you for this time today. And also I want to say to Lisa Darcy, sorry, I just going put that out there, I really appreciate the work that she does, does amazing work. So, thank you, guys. And again, I appreciate everything you guys are doing and take care.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ka`aihue. Members, any questions for our testifier? I think Chair Lee. Yes. Okay. Chair Lee has a question for you, Ms. Ka`aihue.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to ask how much exactly are you asking for this year versus last year?

MS. KA`AIHUE: I believe last year we asked for 220,000 and we ended up getting 218,000. This year, we're actually asking for 224,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And also, just a comment. You're concerned that we might forget you this year. You know, with six strong strident women on the Council, that's impossible.

MS. KA`AIHUE: I absolutely agree. And so, our coalition at the State level is keeping us well relevant. So, again, I appreciate all the mana wāhine out there that's doing all this work and thank you, guys.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Members, any other questions? Okay. I have one quick question, Ms. Ka`aihue.

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: Member Paltin has her hand up.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Member Paltin? If I don't see you, feel free to unmute yourself and say, Chair or here. Sometimes your video is not showing in the gallery. Mahalo. Member Paltin, question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was . . . so, on Page 285 for clarification the Mayor has proposed 228,000 and you mentioned 224,000. I was wondering, you know, how this budget was put together before the COVID situation? If, you know, we all love our families and things but being forced to be in what we're not forced to be in before is there any extra efforts being made to reach out to those families that we know are struggling because of being locked down and not maybe one member not being going to work and so the other member not being able to have a respite of abuse or whatever the situation may be?

MS. KA`AIHUE: Yeah, so actually, that's a really great question because at the . . . at our level, we are trying to put our hotline out more than . . . more often than not. You know, for us, it's one of those things where we have the ability and the capability to do text messaging. So, just like MPD does with their 911 system, people can actually text message. We have a cell phone set aside for that particular purpose. So, that it's easier right. Everybody text message so much faster than they can call and it's probably safer. But we do have . . . still our offices are still operating so that is still a safe place for people to go to if they can. So, we've been trying to get creative in terms of how do we safety plan in the most efficient way possible and what makes sense for the survivor. So, for us, it's definitely trying to come up with more creative plans. Again, the coalition at our State level is trying to assess those kinds of needs for us and, you know, it's the creativity of everybody. We're going to figure it out sooner or later. And if, you know, we can be at that forefront of, okay, maybe text message is the best way. You know, we're going to do whatever it takes at this point and no extra . . . not too much more monetary part on our side. But just the creativity part and just getting out there and doing our work. I mean, I think, it just has to happen anyway so we're going to do whatever it takes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. So, really quickly, I just had one quick question. Similar to Member Paltin but I wasn't sure if it was clearly answered. So, I'll just ask it one more time. So, we know during this time the stay at home order is . . . home is not always the safest place for everybody. And has the Women Helping Women experienced an increase of calls or needs at this time?

MS. KA`AIHUE: Yes, absolutely. We've seen an influx which what we're hearing from O`ahu is they haven't necessarily seen that influx yet. We have seen the influx. Being that our shelter actually only has 26 beds, we are currently housing 31 people, so and we're expecting another family to come in. We're getting creative. We're trying to find ways to keep social distancing within the shelter and still, you know, keep everybody safe. But, yes, in terms of hotline calls and all of those things we are seeing probably about

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

April 8, 2020

one and a half times what we normally see. We expect that it will get a little bit busier than that and so, again, we're going to come up with other ways of isolation if we have someone that needs to be quarantined during this time and also keeping social distancing for the entire house as well as staff.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ka`aihue. So, sorry, one last question. When I posted, so Molokai Shelter is still open. Lāna`i falls under your Women Helping Women, Maui?

MS. KA`AIHUE: Yes, it does. And that office is still operating so we still have services that are being sought [sic] there so we have alternative housing plans for that in case we do have someone that needs to be isolated during that time. But in terms of our respite shelter instead of that stopgap shelter that we have it is still an available option.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ka`aihue. Okay, Members? Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here and sharing, Sanoe. So, my question is and, you know, we have this influx and you have limited space and you're trying to do this social distancing, have you been able to apply for or talked to the Mayor's Office about emergency funding to try to get some immediate funding in to help you with the extra influx?

MS. KA`AIHUE: Yeah, so we've been contacted by the Mayor's Office about what some of our needs are. And our biggest need truthfully is to be able to have a designated isolation area because our house is, you know, it's only seven bedrooms. And so, with that, we want to be able to --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. KA`AIHUE: --keep someone that needs it but yes, yeah. And we would ask that, you know . . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, great. Well, yeah, sounds like you need more beds and more --

MS. KA`AIHUE: We need space, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --that kind of accommodations. But no, that's great that he contacted you. So, hopefully, you'll get some emergency fund 'cause a lot of these things --

MS. KA`AIHUE: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --aren't going to be able to wait till July 1st.

MS. KA`AIHUE: Absolutely.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you for what you're doing.

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

April 8, 2020

MS. KA`AIHUE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay. Seeing no --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --other, oh, Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. One last one. Real fast. Sanoe, good morning. I just want to let you know that before this meeting started, I sent somebody to Women Helping Women, your emergency line. And I got that from Department of Housing and Human Concerns. So, thank you for the work you do.

MS. KA`AIHUE: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Members, any other question? Seeing none. Thank you so much, Ms. Ka`aihue, for joining us today and providing your testimony. Next testifier is Bevanne Bowers followed by Suzanne Antounian.

MS. BOWERS: Good morning, Chair, and Members of the Committee.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning.

MS. BOWERS: I'm Bevanne Bowers and I serve as Executive Director of Mediation Services of Maui Incorporated doing business as Maui Mediation (MMS). I want to start by saying mahalo. Mahalo for the support that you've given us in the past for our Mediation and Conflict Resolution Services and Education Program. Thirty-eight years ago, we were founded as the Neighborhood Justice Center and that was to help neighbors resolve their disputes. Today, not only do we provide conflict resolution services, but also training for adults and now youth grades kindergarten through high school. We provide workplace civility training for area businesses and government departments, anger management training, and facilitation services. Now, we're one of five community mediation centers across the state, but we're the only one serving Maui County. And we serve all of Maui County, that's including Hana, Molokai and Lāna'i. Under a contract we had with the State Judiciary, we provide services for Maui's District, Small Claims, and Family Courts. But we also handle plenty of non-court related matters. Many of our mediations do take place in the courthouses, but our offices are located in Wailuku's Cameron Center. Last year, our services allowed 332 cases to be diverted or dismissed, and we served more than 1,100 residents. Now, with our State Courts basically being closed at this time, we're anticipating even greater need when the hearings start again. But, right now, we're putting in place trainings and the opportunity to provide remote mediation as we see this will be needed not just in the near future but ongoing. It was revealed at a Maui County Bar Association meeting last year that on average a District Court case gives less than four minutes to a litigant. And with the backlog of the cases that's accumulating right now, we fully expect the demand

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

April 8, 2020

for services to be greater than ever. As an attorney, licensed not only here but in another state, I know the effectiveness of mediation and I'm most proud of these three statistics. During our last fiscal year, 94 percent of our mediation participants reported they were satisfied with our process, 95 percent reported they would recommend us, and 65 percent reported they saw improved relations with the other participants. As a community mediation center, we offer Maui residents an effective, affordable option. Quite simply, many here can't afford private legal services, but it's our policy not to turn anyone away due to financial hardship. And, actually, many of our services are free to participants. The lifeblood of our agency is our pool of professionally trained volunteers. And during last fiscal year, they donated more than 498 hours. We look forward to continuing our work of promoting peace in our community with a process that promotes safety, communication, and respect. And, again, I thank you for your previous support and ask that it continues.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing. Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Bowers, for your testimony. We have two Councilmembers with questions, oh, three. Okay. I see Member Paltin, Member Molina, and then Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha, Ms. Bowers. Thank you for your testimony. My first clarifying question is how do you folks reach you? I mean, we get inundated with neighbor disputes all the time and I'm no mediation specialist, so how do people access your services?

MS. BOWERS: Oh, they call our office at 244-5744. We have a website. And I can repeat that again – 244-5744. Our website at MauiMediation.org also has a link where if they click on it an email comes straight to my office. We immediately respond. Oftentimes they just want some information and that's another service we provide and just resources in the community - if you have a landlord/tenant, if you have a matter involving children. Our top three cases involve custody, they involve landlord/tenant, and they involve debts. And I'm only expecting that to grow exponentially in the coming months. But we handle everything from neighbors to dog bites to businesses breaking up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Awesome. Thank you so much for that information. And then I see your program on Page 277 of Food, Shelter and Safety Grants but we weren't provided the disbursements so, do you mind sharing with us how much that you were asking for?

MS. BOWERS: This year, we're asking for \$51,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Molina and then Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And, Ms. Bowers, nice to see you as always. I think a couple of my questions were answered earlier in your response to Member Paltin. But with the situation we're in and people losing their jobs

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

April 8, 2020

and who may need conflict resolution and can't afford an attorney so you mentioned exponentially you're going to see a rise in request for the services that you offer. Will 51,000 in your opinion at this point be enough?

MS. BOWERS: Councilman, at the time we proposed this budget we were looking to expand our trainings just to help keep our core competent and skilled. Now that we are having to train and doing remote mediations, which is totally different than face-to-face, added monies would most definitely be appreciated and, if allowed, I would most welcome the opportunity to amend the request. However, 51,000 would go great ways in allowing us to continue because the lifeblood of our agency are our core volunteers, and they're very special people that we have to keep them on top of their game feeling supportive and feeling competent.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, great. I appreciate the response and as you mentioned, the backlog in the courts and everything else. I think you're going to certainly feel a vital need in our community in the coming days. Thank you so much –

MS. BOWERS: It's a need . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --yeah, great. And like I said, how . . . just very quickly how much more do you think you need . . . you mentioned 51,000. If you were to throw out a figure at us something little bit more than 51,000 what would that be?

MS. BOWERS: I would be looking at augmenting our training budget. And from what I talked to and there's a gentleman that works with our sister agency on O`ahu and we would be able, I believe, to bring our core up to speed for another 3 to \$4,000 and that's including all of the expenses of having them here doing the role play so when we put out our service it's the absolute best it can be.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Great. All right, thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MS. BOWERS: Thank you, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Pro Tem Kama and then Committee Vice-Chair King.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Bowers, for being here. My question was similar to Councilmember Molina. I just thought that 3,000 was very conservative. As I think of the needs that are out there and I think about your volunteers, I also think that I would probably like you to go back and take a better look at your budget and reassess what those needs might be, because I think 3,000 - 4,000 is really conservative. But we . . . I anticipate a surge in what you're talking about too, and I want to make sure that our people has somebody to talk to without having to become violent, without having to . . . they have to learn to use words and maybe this

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

April 8, 2020

is the time for us to start doing that. But thank you very much for the work you do; but thank you, Chair.

MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Councilwoman, and again we operate bare bones but by no means try to do it cheaply. The important thing is getting people who are willing to put themselves in the middle of conflict and that is the greatest challenge that we have because that's what we're asking our mediators to do as volunteers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Bevanne. I think your services are great. Your request is certainly very reasonable, and I just wanted to mention Councilmember Paltin's question reminded me that in my first term I did have a . . . I did meet with somebody who had a pretty escalated neighbor dispute and I recommended your services which I think they went to. He told they set up a meeting and I never heard from them again so I'm assuming it got mediated because I probably would have heard back. But in that exchange, I remember that there was some mention of your services in some County materials and I couldn't remember . . . I was trying to think what that was, but I know that we found the reference to Maui Mediation Services and some of the County materials that we were looking through in trying to help this person. So, it would be helpful if you do have like a list of where your services are mentioned, you know, are alluded to and where that outreach is so that people could get a hold of your number, that might be helpful too.

MS. BOWERS: Okay. Councilwoman, I know we were included in a particular brochure for landlord/tenant. I try to get the word out as much as possible because as I said, we've been here for 38 years and --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Right.

MS. BOWERS: --there's still members that have no idea that there is a community mediation center here to meet their needs. So, with your suggestion, I will go back and make the list of not only where we are but that will help me identify where I need to touch --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Where you need to be.

MS. BOWERS: --and say, listen, we're here.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Well, your services are extremely helpful, and I think especially going forward that's a very reasonable ask for that increase. Thank you.

MS. BOWERS: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay, Members, any other questions? Okay. I have one quick question, Ms. Bowers.

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

April 8, 2020

MS. BOWERS: Uh-huh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are you able to train people remotely as well during this time period?

MS. BOWERS: We were working on . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just hearing . . . yeah.

MS. BOWERS: Just right now, Chair, because it's a fine art form. We're used to having people . . . we'll see full body language, no interruptions, not someone maybe hiding in the corner that might be whispering. And so, we're learning the nuances in order to be able to conduct productive professional mediations. So, that's something that my staff and I started working out a couple of weeks ago, working with the gentleman who's been doing it for years and is seen as a national expert so that's where our energies are being directed right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Incredible. Yeah, hearing your response to the other Members in, you know, preparing for the backlog that's occurring right now and, you know, having people ready for that and for mediation and training. One quick question. So, you mentioned training for children.

MS. BOWERS: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: How does that occur? Or where?

MS. BOWERS: We have a very good program . . . and this is . . . we customize basically all of our programs be it for adults or for children. As I said, we've worked with children as young as kindergarten all the way to seniors in high school. We talked first to the school administrators, to the program administrators, and find out what it is that they need. And in some points, they have direct needs. For instance, we had one instance where they had a bowling issue and so she developed a curriculum specifically dealing with that. Some cases, and it has to be age appropriate where the children actually understand what we're talking about. And a lot of it is saying, well when you get angry, what do you do? How do you react? And we start from just the basic level. We do it with games. We do it with videos. We do it with a way that not only gets their attention but keeps them engaged. And again, the responses we've gotten not just from the teachers but from the youth participants themselves, 'cause not only is it working but they'd like more of it. So, part of our funding request is to enhance and grow our youth program because now more than ever we have a need for this type of skill base for our young people. We've got to learn to deal with conflict to deal with disputes better, especially now when it's so easy and we've got so many things coming at us in uncharted territories.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'm thankful I didn't have to go through cyber bullying when I was in high school, so there's a lot of that, and the bullying even at elementary

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

April 8, 2020

level. So, mahalo, for that service. I think that's a tremendous service to our community. Mahalo.

MS. BOWERS: Thank you. Thank you. Chair, if I may say one more thing? And this is putting on my separate hat as President of the Maui Nonprofit Directors Association, I want to thank you and your Committee for giving all of Maui's nonprofits the opportunity to talk to you about our services and what we do. And thank you for the support that you've given. So, mahalo, for this time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Bowers. It's our honor and privilege to be able to extend that invitation to our community.

MS. BOWERS: Thank you much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, for your testimony today. Okay. Next testifier is Suzanne Antounian, Maui Adult Day Care Centers, followed by phone number 446-1083.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Good morning, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Good morning, County Councilmembers. My name is Suzanne Antounian and I serve as the Executive Director of Maui Adult Day Care Centers. And, first of all, we really want to sincerely thank you for your ongoing support for Maui Adult Day Care Centers. We are celebrating 47 years of service to our island. Our Day Care Centers services the Maui frail, elderly, and at-risk adults which allows them to remain at home for a longer period of time, preventing premature admission to a nursing home or other institution. I believe that nowadays our seniors and kūpuna like to stay at home a little bit more than they'd rather be in an institution. We offer five centers throughout Maui providing a variety of activities and a social program for our kūpuna, an alternative to being isolated in their home all day while their caregivers have to maintain their job and financial responsibilities. We offer quality care, wonderful programs. We have a dedicated and caring team. We also have paper fee services and scholarships that we offer our clients who are financially in challenged . . . financially challenged and distressed. We also are open seven days a week. In addition to caring for our kūpuna in our centers we also address the needs of families and caregivers by providing six monthly caregiver support groups, quarterly workshops, and free supportive counseling to our caregivers. We actually . . . six months . . . so we have six different locations a month that we provide caregiver support groups. We were asking for you to please support our line-item with a 10 percent increase that in order to cover some of our increased costs and expenses. Our number of clients are increasing. We're having to hire additional employees. We also have . . . we were awarded a bus and a van, and our common area of maintenance and rent are also increasing. We provide our services through partnerships with a variety of agencies on Maui. Caring for our at-risk adults and kūpuna is a community effort. Thank you to the Maui County Office on Aging, Kaunoa, and to MEO Transportation for the programs they provide for our Maui County

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

April 8, 2020

adults. And, again, we just want to thank you for your continued support for Maui Adult Day Care Centers and everyone who supported us at our walk in February, so . . . and please stay healthy. My testimony.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Antounian. Okay, let's see. I see a question from Member Sinenci and Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Antounian, for being here today for your testimony. My question was with the Mayor's shelter in place mandate, is Maui Adult Care [sic] providing services? I know that the kūpuna are not coming out to the centers. So, are you continuing to provide some other form of services for kūpuna who are at home?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Absolutely. We are staying in contact via phone. We do have our main office still staffed with two of us. We are remaining in contact. We actually called all of our clients earlier in March and we've been setting up communications. We have a newly updated web service that we can send out communications, emails to all the different clients and providers on the island that we're really proud of that. That was before the coronavirus started and we just happened to be lucky that we did that ahead of time. So, we are continuing to provide services. Kathy Couch, who is our Program Coordinator, is also doing counseling helping families. We've got an increase in number of people who are asking about caregiver support and for those we are calling individually and talking with them.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. And I know that the centers would provide nutritionist meals for kūpuna while they are at the centers. Is there some type of a food program that would still supply food to some of the kūpuna?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Yes. We actually . . . I personally called 90 percent of the clients and talked to them individually. Took down notes to find out how, what their needs were. Quite a few were, you know, worried about the meals. We have referrals to Meals on Wheels, Hale Kau Kau. Some people needed things as, you know, diapers, Depends, chux, and so we actually made sure that they also received those. And we did a four-page newsletter instead of a three-page newsletter to try and, you know, keep them a little bit more involved and have something to look at, at home. So, but we have tried to connect with services depending on, you know, what their needs were.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Awesome. Thank you, Ms. Antounian, for your service to the community. Mahalo.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Member Sugimura and then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Nice seeing you. So, I just wanted to say I noticed that on our Detail Budget or budget that you're asking for \$25,000 more. So, is that for the van you said?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. ANTOUNIAN: What that is for is increase in our common area maintenance/rent, and also is for . . . we have to replace the van in Hana. It's ready to be retired. We also have another bus that we are . . . that we were awarded for Central, South, and West Maui in order to take our clients on more excursions, if there's late pickups or, you know, or, you know, MEO can't service them, we will be able to help with that. So, it would be new cover, you know, increase in, you know, employees to drive the van or to have training. And then also as far as our wages for our current employees. They start out pretty low - \$13.00 an hour. They definitely take care of our clients with their hearts. They don't really pay too much attention to their wages. So, we're hoping to bring the wages up a little bit. And then, of course, the benefits. When the wages go up, the benefits also cost a little bit more.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: One last question. How many clients do you service?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: As far as clients at four of our centers, close to probably over 310. And then Hana is, you know, a drop-in center, anywhere from 350 to 400 a year, but 310 a month.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, all together you're saying it's 600 . . . you have 660?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: 310 plus 350?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: More in Hana than you have on the rest of the island?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Yeah. Well, Hana is a drop-in center, so that's why it's 350 basically a year. So, they come in, they drop in, they . . . some stay. Sometimes, you know, they take care of them, you know, they need to have some supervision. They do different activities. They get massages. They use the computers, the washing machines that we have there, the different services, they distribute food baskets also medical equipment, so they provide services to about 350 maybe even a little bit more per year there. Whereas . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Oh.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you for the good work you do.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Antounian. I just wanted to give a shout out that you received one of the highest scores on the matrix, the scoring matrix.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Oh, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But my question was I see Maui Adult Day Care Center under . . . it looks like to me five different headings in our budget, Page 287 and 288 for Hale Hulu Mamo, Na Pu`uwai personal care, Na Pu`uwai adult care, Adult Day Care Respite, and Family Caregiver Support, and so you're speaking to all of these?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Not the Na Pu`uwai.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Na Pu`uwai is from Molokai.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, you're not speaking to the two Na Pu`uwai ones.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: No, but we do provide counseling services and support group like quarterly workshops over on Molokai. But we're not listed under those two, no. As far as . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But not the . . . or adult respite. Not the Ho`okele Caregivers Maui - Care Options nor the Na Pu`uwai Adult Day Care? Neither of those?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: No. But Hale Hulu Mamo, yes, that is our Hana center.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And I was wondering if you could share with us the amounts for each program?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: The amounts for each program for both of those?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The dollar amounts that you're requesting?

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Dollar amount for each program for . . . if I could, I would like to get back to you on that for each. I know the total is, you know, the 394,285; 90,000 is designated for Hana. We are in the Mayor's Budget, and . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. The thing is, I'm looking at the Mayor's Budget and it's just under . . . the Hulu Mamo looks like it's under maybe Homeless Program, and then the other one looks like it's under services to the frail and elderly. But we don't . . . I can't find the exact amount for each organization. It's just the general grant for services to the frail and elderly for 861,739 and that's not all you, is it?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. ANTOUNIAN: No. We have, as far as for caregiver support, we're going to pull the individual accounts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay . . .

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Thirty-three thousand for caregiver's support. Respite could be like right around 69,000. It's close to 90,000 for Hale Hulu Mamo but we're going to pull the individual . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because I did ask that in my written questions but my concern is if I don't know how much that you're asking for and then they tell how much they're appropriating I'm not sure if it's more than what you asked for, less than what you asked for, or . . . that's what I'm trying to get the information for to see . . .

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Well, we asked for a 10 percent increase. We ended up getting somewhere around a 7 percent increase of 25,000 through the Mayor's Budget. So, it was a 7 percent versus a 10 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Uh-huh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Members, any more questions? Seeing none. Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Antounian.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Thank you. Stay well and healthy, everyone. Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Bye-bye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, there were other people that were on, but I think we've lost connection or they disconnected. So, anyone else that is on that would like to provide testimony that I have not called upon? Okay. And mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King, for letting me know that Mr. Weltman will not be rejoining us. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, Chair, thank you very much. And I appreciated how you conducted today's meeting. I just wanted to . . . I shared with you already but I wanted to let the other Budget Committee Members know that upon my final meetings with the department heads, I will be submitting to you, in writing, my recommendations for my Committee's adjustments to the budget as its Chair and I will make sure that all Members receive a copy of that memo. I'll be sending to you early next week regarding Parks and Human Concerns programs and requests. Thank you, Chair.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Okay. So, hearing no other requests for oral testimony, I'll now read the written testimony that we received as of 8:00 this morning. On April 7th, we received one testimony for Mālamalama . . . funding for Mālamalama from Sylvia Cenzano. Support for funding for the Paia Youth and Cultural Center from five testifiers – (1) Tiffany Olson, (2) Rukhsanna Guidroz, (3) Razi Wilson, (4) Bree Hyssop, and (5) Jesse Brown. One testimony in support of funding for Hana Health Rehabilitation and Support Center from Cheryl Vasconcellos. One testimony in support for funding for Mental Health America Hawai'i from Kristin Mills. One testimony in support for funding for Piihola Road pavement from Dana Jones. One testimony in support for funding for Maui County Child Care Subsidy Program from Jelsey. Three testimony in support funding for the Boys and Girls Club from (1) Mei Lee Wong Dowling, (2) Karey Kapoi, submitting written testimony on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui Board of Directors, (3) Terry Watanabe. We received four testimony in support of funding for the Habitat for Humanity Maui from (1) David DuRoss, (2) Joanne Stevenson, (3) Deborah Wright, and (4) Sayble Bissen. One testimony in support for funding for Maui Nui Resource Council's Water and Environmental Resource Protection and Conservation Program [sic] from Anne Rillero. Submitting written testimony from Robin Newbold. One testimony in support of funding for Maui Family Support Services, Inc. from Katelynn. And one testimony in support of various programs . . . funding for various programs from Michele Lincoln. If there are no objections from the Members, we'll accept that into record, written testimony to record?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Okay. And just for the Members' information, we do have Monique Yamashita on the line. We have the following people for questions if Members have them when we get to that point in the agenda. Monique Yamashita from Ka Hale A Ke Ola; Chelsie Evans from Maui Hui Malama; Danielle Bergan from Mental Health America Hawai'i; Jonah Romero, Ocean Safety Officer for the County; Curtis Jamison, Grants Program Manager for the County; Deborah Stonewalls, County Executive on Aging; and Sherri Dodson from Habitat for Humanity. Okay. Would Members like to continue working until 12:00 or would you like to take an early lunch?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Early lunch.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any preference?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No. Your call, Chair. Either way.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Okay, I guess we can take . . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair, what's your preference?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I would like us to get started and then go, you know, without having to stop. So, if we were to start now, we would probably go for like maybe a half

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

April 8, 2020

hour or an hour and then we would, you know, likely stop for lunch. So, I think I prefer to just stop now so that once we get the Department on, we can just continue until we're pau with that Department.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I agree. I agree.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. We'll stick with that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I agree, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry. So, whenever anyone joins, please be sure to mute your mic when you join. Mahalo. Okay. Okay, Members, so it's 11:31. We'll take an hour break so 12:30 we'll reconvene. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Did we close testimony?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, no. Okay. Members, if there are no objections, we have accepted written testimony into the record, and we'll close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Public testimony for today is closed.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other comments or --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --questions before we take our break for lunch? Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Just for clarification. After lunch Fire Department is coming up first, right?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're going to have the Housing and Human Concerns first --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, Housing. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --and then that way those serving as resource will be available for us, and then we'll take Fire and Public Safety.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that question. Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: When were we coming back again? What was the time of --

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 12:30.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --coming back? Oh, 12:30. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that okay?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. Sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Any objections? Okay. Seeing none. Okay. All right. So, we'll see you all in an hour. It's 11:33 and the Economic Development and Budget Committee will reconvene at 12:30. Okay. So, we are now in recess. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

RECESS: 11:33 a.m.

RECONVENE: 12:34 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(gavel)* . . . The Economic Development and Budget Committee please return to order. It's 12:34 on April 8th and we will start with Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Just a reminder for everyone who is on to please put yourself on mute. When you are going to speak to, you can take the mute off and then when you're finished speaking to please put your mute back on. Okay. All right.

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
OF MAUI (CC 20-56 and CC 20-114)**

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, we have with us from Department of Housing and Human Concerns Director Lori Tsuhako, Deputy Director Linda Munsell; Office of Aging and Executive Deborah Stone-Walls; Kaunoa Senior Services Administrator Ruth Griffith; Housing Administrator Buddy Almeida; and Grants Management Division Administrator Curtis Jamison. And we also have Budget Director Michele Yoshimura. Okay. Director Tsuhako, would you like to start off with some opening comments and then we can go into questions from there?

MS TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair and Members. Just a slight correction, Budget Director Yoshimura got called away to an emergency meeting, so we're joined here today by Wendy Nathan, one of the Budget Specialists from that office . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that correction.

MS. NATHAN: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Wendy. Mahalo for joining us.

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair and Members, thank you very much for having us at the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. My opening remarks will be very brief and I will try very hard this afternoon to answer your questions very efficiently and concisely and as completely as possible so that we can move on and make sure that there's enough time for your additional questions or need for clarification. The Department did prepare a PowerPoint for today and we will forward that copy of the PowerPoint to you through the Budget Office so that you can see that data. It's a very short presentation. So, we'll get that to you when we are done as well as some of the documents that were requested in the calculation of questions from the Councilmembers asking for information such as job descriptions and things of that nature. That will all be forwarded to you after we're done today. So, I'm prepared to move forward. I wanna take just one moment to acknowledge that, you know, our Department has been working very, very hard during these times of crisis because we have responsibility to care for people. Our Kaunoha and Office on Aging staff continues to work with our elders in our community to identify those who need additional support, who have food insecurity and make sure that they are fed. You know, every piece of our Department is intricately to doing a service in the community and I want to make sure that everyone in our Department understands that they are important. The role that they play is important in that a larger community appreciates what they do especially at a time like this when so many people are worried and so many people are rightfully concerned about what the next steps will be. So, thank you very much and we appreciate that opportunity to continue giving service to the County. Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm ready for questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. So, perfect. Mahalo. Okay. We'll start off with questions regarding Category "A" – Salaries and Wages. Question 1 – *Please provide vacancy and overtime reports for the Department.* I believe that was provided by Ms. Yoshimura to the Committee. Question 2 – *Please provide the SR/step dollar amount.* Okay. So, we've discussed that. Question 3 – *Please explain the need for the Departmental . . .* Oh, okay. Please remember to mute yourself. Mahalo. Okay. Question 3 – *Please explain the need for the Departmental Personnel Clerk expansion positions and provide the position description, summary of duties, and minimum qualifications.* And this is from Member Paltin.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: ~~No. 5~~Number five.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. You know, our Department has a total of about 160 FTE. Some of them are broken down into different categories but we have eight different divisions, we have four different Program Budgets, and we have one person who is responsible for Human Resources, Administrative stuff, and Payroll related tasks. Coincidentally, that person recently left our Department to relocate to O`ahu so that position in our Department is currently vacant. We have a complicated mix of full-time, part-time, casual hire as well as exempt employees. Right now, that work usually done by our Administrative Officer is being done by one of our secretaries who's doing this in addition to her normal tasks. So, the Personnel Clerk request was for assistance for our Administrative Officer in order to do all of the administrative and personnel work for our Department. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Questions for relating to Budget Details, Page 8-7 – *Please explain the need for a Housing Program Specialist II in addition to three Housing Program Specialist IV positions, and provide position descriptions, summary of duties, and minimum qualifications*, from Member Paltin and Member Sugimura.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, having Specialists IVs manage and oversee programs, and in some cases they manage several programs such as Workforce Housing, HOME or Housing Trust Fund Program, Affordable Housing Fund Program, and First-time Homebuyers Program. So, in addition to managing these programs, Specialists are responsible for monitoring projects both during construction and after occupancy. This includes the use of funds and ensuring prevailing wages are paid, marketing oversight, and tenant and owner selection process. So, you know, the bottom line is the request for an additional position was made because as additional affordable housing projects get added to the inventory with corresponding Workforce Housing agreements where the agreements have to be monitored by our staff. And in order to adequately monitor those or even projected longer affordability periods we need additional staff.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. So, I'm going to skip Question B of that and Question 5. Mahalo, Member Molina. Question 6(b), from Member Paltin - *Relating to Expansion of two Senior Services Transit Aide II, Page 275 – Please provide the position description, summary of duties, and minimum qualifications*.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, as I noted earlier, we will send you the position descriptions. The need for the two Senior Services Transit Aides from Kaunoa was based on increased request for that Assisted Transportation Program provide door-to-door service for people, the elderly who require transportation to doctor's appointments and things of that nature. So, it's not like a bus that can just pick up somebody at the curb and drop them at the curb. It requires the staff to go in, get the participant, bring him out to the car, stay with him during that appointment, and then take them back and make sure that they're safely in their home. And that request is based on an ongoing need so we're trying to have more elderly remain independent and able to stay in their own homes versus being institutionalized but at the same time they're needing more support. So, this request for expansion is part of that additional support that is needed to keep people in their own homes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 7, from Member Paltin – *Please explain how the Immigrant Services Program Coordinator is being reallocated*.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Immigrant Services Program Coordinator position is being reallocated, proposed from an SR-24 to an EM-3. Based on that position's responsibility and supervision of staff on three different islands, we will be following through with the Department of Personnel Services to fulfill all the related administrative requirements that need to be addressed for that reallocation.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 8, so I know you'll be sending the *position descriptions, summary of duties, and minimum qualifications for all the positions* but I guess if you could *summarize for the Office Operations Assistant II and Clerk III, and explain the need for the position reallocation.*

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair, I withdrew that one.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But, yeah, if you can send the information but, yeah, I withdrew that from an ask question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay, skipping so now we'll be asking questions from Category "B" – Operations. Skipping Question 9, going to Question 10 – *Please provide recommendations for a 5 percent reduction of entire Departmental budget.* And that's from Member Hokama.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the Department is recommending that as a first measure to achieve a 5 percent reduction in overall budget that all new line-item grants and any expansion of grant funding from Fiscal Year '20 levels be deleted. Such a strategy would result in savings of approximately \$1.9 million from Human Concerns. If we were to maintain funding at Fiscal Year '20 levels for the First-Time Home Buyers Program, another \$1 million would be added to that savings, which would total about \$2.9 million, which is more than the 5 percent of the Department's total budget.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question 11 – *What amount from the General Fund was used to offset federal grants program personnel and benefits? Please provide details of position type, amounts, and grant name.* (from Member Hokama)

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Chair. So, I'll go through the position type and the number of positions, the fringe amounts as well as the name of the grant. The position type are permanent civil service, Aging and Disability Services Specialists I, II and III, for a total position . . . number of positions of five. The fringe amount was 175,627. And the grant, the name of the grant was Aging Title III Programs. Second category is Senior Service Program Assistant III, Office Operations Assistant II, and Program Assistant I, a total of seven positions out of the Congregate Nutrition Program, which is funded via Title III funds and voluntary contributions, and that amount was 198,299. Third category – Senior Service Program Assistant I, Clerk III; Senior Service Transit Aide II, a total of six positions. Fringe amount of \$143,098. The grant name is Assisted Transportation and that's funded via the Kūpuna Care and voluntary contributions. Category four – Senior Service Program Specialist III, Senior Services Program Assistant II, Clerk III, and Nutrition Program Aide, a total of ten positions. Fringe benefit cost is \$203,497 and the program, the grant name is Home Delivered Meals Program, also known as Meals on Wheels, funded via the Title III, Kūpuna Care, and voluntary contributions. Next, title position - Senior Service Program Assistant III – one position; excuse me, 47,834 in benefits, and this is paid by the Federal Retired Senior Volunteer Program Grant. And lastly, the Section 8 Housing Program – all positions, which

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

April 8, 2020

number 17, fringe total was 552,272 and that comes out of the Section 8 Housing Grant. So, all Human Concerns Program are civil service. MCOA, the Office on Aging has one grant for which the General Fund was used to offset the cost of fringe. And we're concerned because we have past due money from the Office on Aging that goes to Kaunoa to provide some of those services. And if more of the grant funding is used to pay for fringe benefits, the actual service provision will be, will have to be reduced. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. So, I think I'm going to ask . . . there are six parts to Question 12. I'll read them all together and then if you can answer them. They're kind of related. Okay. Question 12, relating to Program Budget, Page 264, a) *Please provide an update on the funds expended on Services for FY 2020 (all from Member Paltin); b) What was the outcome of the parcel studies and analysis of impediments (from Member Paltin); c) Was the Waiale parcel, or any other parcel, studied or selected for possible affordable housing development (from Member Paltin and Member Molina); d) Can the Department explain why these parcel studies were not conducted, and what the Department did to identify potential sites for housing (Member Molina); e) What does it mean that the Department "didn't have the capacity to use those funds" (from Member Molina); and f) If there are other parcel studies being performed, when will they be ready to be reviewed by the Council (from Member Molina).*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll go through this in the same order that you read. Thank you. So, an update on the funds expended on Services for Fiscal Year 2020, each of the parcel studies we recognize that about \$450,000 may go unused. Would you like, I mean, excuse me, Madam Chair, would the Members like for me to offer the Index Codes as I go down this list?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Not necessarily.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you do have them, it helps.

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. All right. So, let me start again then. So, Index Code 914121B, Parcel Studies, we anticipate that 450,000 of that may be unused. Index Code 914123B – Papalaua Street - \$50,000 may go unused. Index Code 914457B – Analysis of impediments tree and lot maintenance – budgeted at \$80,000 and \$30,000 has been expended so far. Index Code 914457B, Parcel Studies - \$180,000 budgeted and expected to expend a total of \$110,000. Question B of the question – what was the outcome of the parcel studies and analysis of impediments? The Department was advised that the parcel studies funds were to be reserved for studies of parcels that the Administration was planning to purchase. And for this reason, we had not proceeded to conduct feasibility studies on other parcels. The analysis of impediments is part of one report that has been completed and the Department is waiting to receive a purchase order information to process the payment for the report. So, more spending will occur for that. That analysis of impediment study is a HUD requirement that's done every four or five years. And this year, the County reviewed internal policies on fair housing to identify possible impediments in areas for us to make improvements. And then once that study is completed then Department goes to work on actually implementing

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

April 8, 2020

recommendations for improving our fair housing practices. So, going onward, Madam Chair, was the Waiale parcel or any other parcel studied or selected for possible affordable housing development? The answer is yes. We believe that the Mayor has put in funding in the Capital budget for land purchase of Waiale . . . the Waiale project and some of the funding that our Department had to do those parcel studies reviewed to contribute to the Department's efforts, the County's efforts for due diligence in the purchase of that project. Question D – can the Department explain why the parcel studies were not conducted, and what the Department did to identify potential sites for housing? The Department reviewed a list of all the County-owned parcels and the parcel study that had been completed as recently as 2018 we did not move forward on conducting the additional studies due to the Administration's plan or consideration of purchasing that land in Waiale and we realized that as the process of potential purchase of that property going on, further feasibility studies or other needs associated with due diligence on that line purchase would need to be done. Question E – what does it mean that the Department didn't have the capacity to use those funds? Probably there were delays in the recruitment of the Housing Project Coordinator position in our Housing Division. And one of the primary functions that this position was designed to do was to research and study parcels for possible housing development projects. So, utilization of that funding for the studies were delayed because the position was filled in September of 2019. And lastly, if there are other parcel studies being performed, when will they be ready to be reviewed by the Council? And at this time, there are no other parcel studies that will be forwarded for review to the Council.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Also, I see that you're reading a lot of your responses. Would you be able to transmit that to the EDB Committee? I'm sure not everyone was able to catch everything that you read. It's really good information and mahalo for your thorough responses.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, these are my notes I'm reading.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Questions?

MS. TSUHAKE: I'm sorry, Madam Chair. I'm just reading off of my notes. They're not, I don't think, transmittable to your body in this state. But I think I could respond if a request was made to the Mayor and then we can . . . we will do the normal transmittal through that process. I can clean this up to be acceptable for that standard.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, sorry, they're weed eating right outside. Can't like super hear. But was that something that the Council, the Committee is . . .

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: That would be appreciated, Chair. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mahalo.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chair, can I ask also that . . . she was also reading, Chair, she was also reading her answer to the 5 percent reduction. So, I couldn't write fast enough. Could she also send that also?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I mean, for all of the responses.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah. If it's written down since it looked like she was reading, that was all. Okay.

MS. TSUHAKEO: I had to type it because I cannot read my own handwriting.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Question 13 – *Relating to Budget Details, Page 8-12, First-Time Home Buyers Program: a) How many families can the Department assist with a home purchase with the proposed \$3 million funding (from Member Molina); How much of, if any, of this \$3 million will be used for administrative costs (from Member Molina); and c) Will any of this funding be used for first-time homebuyer education (from Member Molina).*

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Molina. Based on the amount of, maximum amount of \$30,000 per household, \$3 million in funding would support at least 100 households. Not all clients receive the full amount. So, it's very high potential that we could serve a higher number of households. None of the money is used for administrative costs. So, all of the money in this fund goes directly to the service, to the clients. And this fund is not used for home-buying education. In order to be eligible for first-time homebuyers, the buyers have to go through a HUD approved homeowner education programs prior to their home purchase. So, none of our funds go to homeowner education upfront. We help and assume and encourage people to do that before they apply for this. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 14 – *Please explain the 28.2 increase in "Other Costs." Was that the shortfall of FY '20 for the First-Time Home Buyers Program (from Member Paltin).*

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. No, the 28.2 percent increase is due to the proposed \$1 million in additional funding to First-Time Home Buyers Program.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 15 and 16 from Member Paltin – *Is it likely there will not be as many homebuyers in FY '21 due to the current economic situation? And 16 - Is there a greater need for homebuyer and housing counseling or for First-Time Home Buyer down payment assistance?*

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think it's fair to say that we don't really know what's going to happen going forward in terms of how many people will be eligible or

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

April 8, 2020

wanting to pursue homeownership at this time. I think if we were to look at historical data like after or immediately after the great recession, there were still people who were pursuing homeownership opportunities. So, it's really challenging for us to say whether there will be a whole lot or whether there will be a whole less. I think we still . . . we would still like to have that program available. There is a need . . . consequently, there is a need for both the homeowner and housing counseling and for the First-time Homebuyers Down Payment Assistance. It's not a one or the other. As I noted earlier, we're asking people to go through the HUD certified homeownership program before they apply for down payment assistance and that will help us assure that these families, these households are ready to assume the financial and other burdens of homeownership that they're going into a mortgage with their eyes wide open. They know what's expected of them as new homeowners, and that they have an opportunity to mitigate credit issues and other things that might make them less of a good candidate for a mortgage. So, both of those programs are necessary. They're funded through different means within our budget. I think there's a third question related to First-Time Home Buyers Program in terms of the time given applicants to purchase the home. Would you like me to address that now since we're on the topic?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, please. Mahalo, Director.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you. So, the changes of time available to the applicant to actually work with their lender and to secure the closing of their home purchase can be increased. We would have to revise the guidelines and I think present it to the Council for your approval. It may be . . . because the program just got operational again for a full year and now we're into a year and a half, it may be a little bit early especially given the uncertainty of this current economic situation we may want to wait for six months or another year before we really look at data and see how necessary that is. But it is possible. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. And that was Question 17, from Member Sugimura – *Could we increase the time to purchase under the First-Time Home Buyer Program?* And then Question 18 is also from Member Sugimura – *What is the timeline for the Revolving Fund?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the Department is in the process of transmitting a proposed ordinance to establish the Revolving Fund that would serve the First-Time Home Buyers Program now. Our hope is that your body would give us approval and that the funds allocated to the program for Fiscal Year 2021 could be captured in a Revolving Fund so that there would be increased sustainability of the program and allow the Department to work to expand the program further. So, a Revolving Fund would allow us to recapture money that's maybe not spent and use it in the next go around. I don't believe we give loans on that, do we?

MS. MUNSELL: There are loans, and so any repayment would go back into the Revolving Fund as well.

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. So, it allows a more sustainability over the long run.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director and Deputy Director. Okay. Question 19, from Member Paltin – *How does the County assist those facing lease cancellations from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. Hale Mahaolu received a grant from the County to offer that homeownership and housing counseling program that I discussed earlier. So, their program is HUD approved and has also been . . . and also has HUD certified counselors available to help people. So, any Department of Home Land [sic] lessee who may be facing lease cancellations are encouraged to contact Hale Mahaolu to arrange a free one-on-one counseling service from this program to address their needs.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 20, from Member Sugimura – *Given the COVID-19 crisis, could the Hale Mahaolu Homeownership Program remain at its FY '20 level of \$150,000?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair and Member Sugimura. So, the agency's grant application to the County stated their request to receive \$150,000 for Fiscal Year '21 and projected for FY '22. And the Department does believe that the program could continue operate effectively if funded at \$150,000 annually.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 21, from Member Paltin – *Please provide a status update on the Kulamalu Hale Apartments?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The project was completed in late 2017. It's leased up and it's being managed by Hale Mahaolu.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that concise answer. Question . . . we're skipping Question 22. I'll go Question 23, this question is from me- *Please explain the Reserve Study recommendations that will be implemented with this funding.* (Budget Details, Page 8-66).

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Komohana Hale project was built in the 1990s, so it's nearly 30 years old. So, a replacement reserve study was completed in 2019 and it used . . . those reserve studies are used to project how much more funding should be allocated in operating budget to ensure the project is properly maintained for the next 30 years. So, the 2019 Reserve Study told us that we're currently behind in the amount of the money in the reserve account investment and we haven't been putting aside enough funds necessary to ensure the long-term viability of this project. So, the amount reflected in the budget is the annual investment recommended to make up the current shortfall and to achieve 100 percent funding for that reserve within that 30-year timeframe. That Reserve account will be generated through rental and other income and won't be coming from General Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 24 . . . two parts – *Relating to the Program Budget, Pages 267-268, HOME Investment Partnership and National Housing*

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

April 8, 2020

Trust Fund: a) What is the funding for? Skip b. And c) Does the Department--(and that was from Member Molina and c is from Member Paltin--does the Department foresee any reductions in the anticipated grant awards for the HOME and HTF programs (26.1 percent increase in "Other Costs") or any other grant awards due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The funding from the HOME Investment Partnership and the National Housing Trust Fund Programs are federal programs designed to increase availability of affordable housing in our community. Each program has its own separate funding capabilities as well as their own restrictions. The County intends to use the funds received through these programs to support the development of additional affordable housing units. The Department does not foresee reduction in anticipated grant awards due to COVID-29 [sic]. We've been notified by HUD that additional funds for the COVID-19 response are coming to HUD-funded programs such as Emergency Solutions Grant, HOPWA, and CDBG. But no particular indication that the HOME and HTF funds will be reduced.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. We're going to skip Questions 25 and 26. Mahalo, Member Kama. And go to Question 27, from Member Paltin – *Is the funding for Hale Makua for a Master Plan or for a Physician Health Services? Please explain as there seems to be a discrepancy between the descriptions on Pages 284 and 285 of the Program Budget?*

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to apologize for the confusion and the discrepancy in the document. So, the Department didn't receive a grant request from Hale Makua. That request was sent directly to the Budget Office until I was able to contact Wes Lo and get some information from him about his request. The purpose of the . . . he's asking for planning and design money for a proposed integrated health care building. It's supposed to be built on about 7½ acres at Kahului Community Center right at the entrance of Hale Makua. It has several purposes including providing additional skilled nursing beds. State of the art in- and out-patient rehabilitation gym for physical occupational speech therapy, creating space for expanding home healthcare services in order to serve the increased number of people who we were hoping remain in their homes, and develop an educational space that supports the need to grow our local health care workforce. Hale Makua's goal is to consolidate its operation into a centralized Kahului campus. So, eventually, to transition all the folks who are in the Wailuku facility . . . and have them come to the consolidated Kahului campus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director.

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair, would you like me . . . would you like for me to answer the more detailed questions about the Hale Makua master planning? I have that information from Wes, but it's quite long. I'll defer to you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I guess this was the project that we spoke about in Member Hokama's Committee in HFC, Healthy Families and Communities?

MS. TSUHAKO: No, it's not.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, it's not. Okay, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: We did talk about the concept and that he did mention to us, he would be coming in for the next round of financial support for the planning and design of a facility after his community outreach that was Phase I. So, to me, our Committee was generally informed of his intentions, and that I'm quite supportive of so I wouldn't mind if Director transmits to all the Members a copy of Mr. Lo's responses. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is the gateball field one?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, I think having the . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I was going to say that, you know, be preferable to get the information in writing. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Gives us more time for the questions, yeah. Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay, so we'll get that transmitted by the Director. Okay. Going to question, oh, okay, so we're going to skip Questions 29 and 30. Mahalo, Member Molina. And Question 31, is from Member Molina – *What materials and supplies will be purchased with the proposed \$20,000 increase from FY '20?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The increase of \$20,000 for materials and supplies is broken down as follows. So, we anticipate \$15,000 for replacement of weights for the enhanced fitness program, which is the evidence-based program for our elderly; \$3,250 for the replacement of small electronics for that same enhanced fitness program; \$2,500 for office supplies needed for the Aging, Disability Resource Center Program.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We're going to skip Question 32 from Member Molina. Question 33 is from Member Paltin – *Given the restrictions . . .*

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I put to skip 33.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, so we're going to skip 33. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Question 34 is from Member Sugimura – *Could travel be restricted to essential travel only from . . .* okay, and I think Member Sugimura, we kind of talked about this or did you want her to respond to this question? Okay. Question . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Question . . . Okay, Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Question 35, from Member Sugimura – *Please provide the names of the organizations receiving these funds and provide data on effectiveness of this program.*

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. The program we're referring to is the rental, Affordable Rental Housing Program. We know it as RAP, meaning the Rental Assistance Program. The four agencies who receive funding for this allocation are: Ka Hale A Ke Ola, Maui Economic Opportunity, Family Life Center, and Women Helping Women. So, based on the data available from the agencies' second quarter report a total of 273 households have received assistance year-to-date. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 36, from Member Molina - *Relating to the Homeless Program: a) Are there any plans to provide more outreach and information to the general public on COVID-19; b) Can the Department provide any new statistics on the amount of inquiries for services the Department has received since January 2020, and if there has been an increase, should additional monetary resources be allocated?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Molina. Currently, due to the COVID-19 situation, the contractor's homeless outreach agencies are still providing active outreach. But with the necessary focus on the safety of both the outreach staff as well as the homeless population they serve and they're doing that by trying to minimize personal contact. However, outreach is distributing flyers to the unsheltered population about emphasizing the CDC guidance, personal hygiene as well as infection prevention. The homeless outreach agencies continue to be focused—and the Department is very supportive of this—focus on hungry people rather than helping people maintain themselves in unsheltered conditions. So, in terms of the statistics for the Department's increase, we don't collect statistics on the number of people who call and inquire. Our Department gets referred many calls, usually complaints actually about homeless encampments or homeless situations. And we deal with them and we handle the high volume of those calls, but we don't actively keep track of how many we do. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 37, from Chair Lee – *What has the Department done to increase the capacity for nonprofits to serve the homeless population on Maui?* And then I'll take the next question together. Question 38, from Chair Lee – *The County's Compassionate Response Team for the homeless plays a significant role in trying to manage our homeless population. Where is the funding in the FY '21 Budget to pay for the many services the County provides the homeless?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. So, aside from providing grant funding to nonprofits such as Family Life Center for outreach case management, Ka Hale A Ke Ola for operations and case management, their Pu'u honua Remedial Respite and Drop-In Center, we provide funding to Legal Aid as well as for Teens on Call. But I'd like to just take a moment to describe briefly the work that we do in program development. So, part of what our work is, is working with agencies and trying to look at ways that we can develop programs that address needs that maybe are not being met right now or that could be met more efficiently. So, for example, we've been in conversations with a physician for a few months now to try because that physician has agreed to go out with the homeless outreach team to do medical services and to also have a set day of the week where the unsheltered homeless can be brought into a facility and be seen so that chronic conditions can be certified and then those people can then be made eligible for other housing services that are available to us. Both . . . the efforts to do that contract with the physician have sort of been derailed by this current situation, but I'm hoping that that gives you an idea that it's a holistic look at the entire situation and trying to figure out ways that programs can be developed. Money is not always the only answer to solve those problems because sometimes agencies will say, you know, I would love to do that and you can give me money but I don't have the capacity to hire that many staff people or to train that many staff people. And so, our efforts to intervene in some of these projects in these situations is sometimes constrained by the service system's ability to absorb more. So, there's no sense in just throwing money at something and not being able to have assurances that there will be an outcome after it. Thank you. Sorry, I forgot to answer the second question, Madam Chair. Sorry. So, our homeless program office is tasked with kind of coordinating the compassionate responses to illegal encampment on County land. So, we get support from the Police Department, from Public Works, from the Parks Department if those encampments are on Parks land. We get support from Environmental Management. The Parks Department helps us to arrange for MCCC Workline inmates to come and help us. And each of those other Departments have money for those employees to come and join that effort or have that equipment in their own budget. So, the Department of Housing and Human Concerns doesn't have anything in our budget to address the cost of those cleanups of encampments but for our staffing. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Question 39, from Chair Lee – *Does Department conduct a second round of grants distribution if there are excess funds available after the first round?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. The Grants Management Division did issue follow-up notices of funding availability to solicit proposals for funding that was unused. I think the last one was issued with a deadline of March 31st and as

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

April 8, 2020

of earlier last week, no proposals had been received. So, what often happens, and I think what we'll do now is we would use whatever funding is available still for grant funding to supplement any existing contract that may need . . . may need more money. So, let me give you an example. I got an email this morning from Family Life Center stating that they've recently returned two Mainland-arriving people back to the Mainland. I think these people arrived in Hawai'i without a residential address with the intention of becoming homeless and utilizing homeless services here. They were not, apparently, quarantined or told to quarantine. But Maude and her outreach staff were able to kind of isolate these people so that they weren't interacting with many, many, many other people and putting others at risk, made arrangements to . . . with family members on the Mainland to have these people put on a plane and sent back to the Mainland; and she's done that twice in the last few weeks. So, my question to her was do you need more money to pay for airfare? If you're going to send people back, I'm happy to pay for that airfare. So, it's these issues that come up like that that may require a little bit of extra funding that we'll be able to do going forward. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 40, from Member Paltin – *Please provide an update on the Council-added provisos for homeless programs and substance abuse education.*

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, similarly to my last response, the Grants Management Division did issue a notice of funding availability for proviso'd homeless program funds with a deadline of March 31st, and unfortunately, we did not receive any proposals before the deadline. We've had numerous discussions with different agencies, different entities about how that funding could be used. I'll give you an example. There was a \$200,000 proviso for a mobile hygiene unit for Kahului. We tried very hard to find an agency who was willing to accept the funding, purchase the unit, and then utilize the unit for I'm sure what was intended to be a very good purpose, but we weren't able to find an agency who was willing to do that. So, those are some of the challenges as I described earlier in terms of capacity. Like if agencies don't have the capacity to utilize that funding then we cannot give it in good conscience.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 41, relating to *Food, Shelter and Safety Grants, Page 277: a) Please provide the disbursement amounts* (from Member Paltin); and *b) Please explain the decrease in the proposed amount from \$959,711 adopted in FY '20 to \$882,843 proposed in FY '21* (from Member Molina).

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the Food, Shelter and Safety Grants were allocated as follows: Aloha House for residential substance abuse treatment at \$143,000; Ka Hale Pomaika'i serving people with co-occurring disorders and substance abuse treatment at \$30,000; Malama Na Makua A Keiki - substance abuse treatment for women – 185,643; The Maui Aids Foundation for HIV, STI Rapid testing prevention and counseling at a cost of \$140,000; Maui Economic Opportunity – Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities at 63,200; Mediation Services of Maui for mediation and conflict resolution training at \$51,000; Molokai Community Service Council for Hale Ho'omalua Domestic Violence Shelter at \$65,000; the Molokai Community Service Council for a program called the Kapili Umbrella Program for \$65,000; Parents and

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

April 8, 2020

Children Together for the Maui Peace Center - \$80,000; and the Roman Catholic Church of Hawai'i for St. Theresa's Church - Hale Kau Kau at \$60,000. And that totals up to \$882,843. And the decrease from Fiscal Year '20 to '21 is because three grantees that were funded in Fiscal Year '20 did not apply for funding in Fiscal Year '21. Those agencies were Child and Family Services; Molokai Service Council – Maurice Thompson Drop-in Center; and the Molokai General Hospital Women's Health Center did not reapply.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 42, relating to *Substance Abuse Programs, Page 281*: a) *Please provide the disbursement amounts (from Member Paltin); and b) from Member Molina – The budget increased from \$506,530 in FY '19 to \$801,567 in FY '20, and is now proposed as \$756,049 for FY '21. Has the significant increase in appropriation from FY '19 to FY '20 result in an increase in the number of individuals successfully graduating from the Aloha House, Inc. and Community Clinics of Maui, Inc. programs?*

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll just respond to the question about the budget increase first. The grant for Aloha House for their Medically Monitored Substance Abuse Detox Program has not changed from year-to-year. So, Aloha House received \$125,000 each year in Fiscal Years '19, '20 and proposed for '21. So, the program goals for the number of persons served also did not increase year-to-year. The grant to Community Clinic of Maui increased in Fiscal Year '19 to '20 by about \$26,000 to 86,567. So, that program proposed a 50 percent increase in the number of persons served. But the third quarter reports that are required from the grantees are not due until April 21st so there is no way that I can compare with the Fiscal Year '19 numbers yet until we get those reports. But I would say, as a general statement, the Department realistically is looking at reduced program achievements for every one of our grants based on the conditions that we find ourselves in right now. So, we're not expecting too many of our grantees to far exceed their number of people serviced just based on COVID-19.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47 are from Member Paltin – *Please provide the disbursement amounts for Early Childhood Programs, Youth Alcohol Education Awareness Programs, Homeless Programs, the Self-Sufficiency Programs, and the Grant for Services to the Frail and Elderly.*

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I'm open to receiving these in email as they're just the disbursement amount numbers. That's fine so we have more time for everyone's questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Question 48, from Member Paltin – *Please describe . . .*

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I would do 48 and 51 as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Question 49, from Member Paltin – *Please explain the differences between the new initiative Collaborative Support Systems, Inc. and Healthy Start.*

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair and Member Paltin. So, Healthy Start statewide was a direct service home visiting program that ended in 2014. So, home visiting is a prevention strategy used to support pregnant moms and new parents to promote infant and child health as well as parental bonding meant to foster educational development, school readiness, and help prevent child abuse and neglect. So, home visiting is one of the key factors in frequenting child abuse and neglect. Collaborate . . . excuse me, Collaborative Support Systems Incorporated, the community-based action strategy designed to be a platform to leverage County resources for additional Federal and State funding and direct access to private funding and resources already committed. So, for example, it leverages existing early childhood action strategies resources focused on Maui County families and young children. It allows the collection of data and analysis of data that gives us a picture of what families with young children in Maui County need and what kind of services would be most appropriate for them. So, it's a different function than what Healthy Start was. That's the bottom line.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 50 – *Where do Volunteer Center funds come from and where are they reported?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Volunteer Center is funded through General Funds and it is subsumed under the Human Concerns' budget.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 52 – *Please provide details of this new Habitat for Humanity program funding, how it will be implemented and identified focus areas (i.e., district or island specific, age and income thresholds).* And this question was from me.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the details for Habitat for Humanity's implementation and focus are as follows. This program is to assist low-income seniors and disabled adult homeowners with repairs and retrofit that are needed for safety reasons in order to allow these folks to continue living in their homes versus needing to be moved into an institution. One goal is to increase the number of senior homeowners living . . . is to decrease the number of senior homeowners who are living in substandard housing and unsafe conditions. The second goal is to provide long-term solutions in order to avoid the necessity for ongoing in-home assistance. So, for example, if you have a senior who requires personal aide to safely get into a tub to take a bath every day, if that tub was converted to a roll-in shower or something and that person could get in there by themselves, then it would not necessitate that aide to help them. And so, overall, it works toward more independence and it allows that service of that aide to be given to another person who might need it more. Most of the monies in the budget will be for building supplies to improve the identified needs in those homes. For example, it might be installation of grab bars or a ramp or access to running water or plumbing, roof repairs, mold mediation, weatherization, windows and screens, or insect or pest control. So, the goal is to serve 15 low-income seniors, citizens, and it is countywide, so meant for all three islands.

MS. MUNSELL: Fifteen per year.

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Fifteen per year. Sorry.

MS. MUNSELL: . . . thirty total . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Fifteen per year?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. So, the target population is homeowners who are at 60 percent or less of area median income. And so the referral, so the identification of these people who might be eligible will be done by the Maui County Office on Aging, the USDA, MEO, and Public Health Nursing primarily and those are the folks who might have access to . . . till we see the homes and know that they need this remediation.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, we're on Page 53, sorry, Question 53 out of 75. So, just please let me know, you know, if I missed anyone's questions that they requested to be withdrawn. Question 53 is from myself and Member Paltin, *Relating to the Imua Family Services Discovery Garden: a) Please provide details for the Discovery Garden project and the breakdown of expenditure for the \$500,000 request; b) (from myself) Is this request amount a matching grant? What other funds have been secured; and c) (from Member King) Please explain the costs of the Discovery Garden as compared to the gardens for the Maui School Garden Network.*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, again, this request from Imua Family Services was made directly to the Budget Office in the Mayor's Office and did not get received or vetted through the Department. So, in order to answer the questions posed by this body, I had to go back to Dean Wong from Imua and get the information from him. So, I will read from his response. He provided a table of expenses for the breakdown of the projects so purchase price – 4 million; architectural engineering – 113,000; construction documents – 3,500; permitting – 14,000; demolition removal – 51,144; construction of the building – 1,502,740; inspection fees – 12,000; contingency – 155,000; inspection contingency – 7,375; advertising and campaign – 10,000; equipment and furnishing – 300,000; showing a total cost of 6,169,147. As a response to the question about matching grant, Dean wrote, yes, the amount from the County of Maui will be matched by donor Susan Moulton of the Will Smith Foundation dollar for dollar. The Will Smith Foundation has committed in contract 2.2 million to the capital campaign. Imua will take this news public and the media at the appropriate time to launch the capital campaign. Sorry, I let the cat out of the bag. Originally, they had planned to make the announcement on April 4th at their gala but will be waiting for a better time to make that announcement. Additionally, \$975,000 grant-in-aid was requested from the State of H Hawai'i and Dean has met with the Ways and Means Committee to garner support of the project. Also, built into the sale of the property agreement is a \$600,000 commitment from Ka'anapali Kai, LLC, for naming opportunity to Imua Family Discovery Gardens. The cost of the Discovery Gardens compared to the gardens for this Maui School Garden Network could not be explained because Mr. Wong did not know what the Maui School Garden Network was except to say that the Discovery Gardens are not farmer gardens of vegetables. The Gardens is a name for the botanical space that is being created for the community by this project.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 54, *Relating to Lāna`i Kinaole*: a) *When available, please provide quarterly and final reports for Lāna`i Kinaole for FY '20*; b) *Please explain the doubling of expenses and the need for the increase in services* (from Member Paltin and Member King); c) *How many more individuals will be served by the expansion* (from Member King); and d) *Is the County the sole source of funding for Lāna`i Kinaole* (from Member Paltin).

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The first and second quarterly reports for Lāna`i Kinaole will be transmitted to you as our Exhibit E. The doubling of expenses is based on the services being proposed. So, Lāna`i Kinaole was formed with the initial focus on supporting continuation of licensed home health services like registered nursing assessments, monitoring medication management, assistance in collecting specimens for lab testing, caregiver support and respite as a result of the only existing agency on Lāna`i that's providing such services ceased to exist. During their first year of existence two registered nurses volunteered their services and the Lāna`i Kinaole founders were more concerned about seniors having access to these services so that they could remain in the community because the service provision is so scant on Lāna`i the fear was that these community members would have to move to Maui or move to O`ahu in order to receive the care that they needed. So, the agency was formed with a desire to serve that need and keep people on their island. That proposal is that Lāna`i Kinaole will expand services to include home and community-based services such as personal care where I can go in and help people with baths and things like that, light housekeeping, assistance to people who are 60 years and older who have challenges with activities of daily living like eating and bathing and walking. Also, have challenges with things like shopping or managing their money or driving. So, without that kind of support services the elders on Lāna`i are more susceptible to falls and kind of losing their independence really quickly and so we appreciate the service that they do. They plan . . . Lāna`i Kinaole plans to service 35 unduplicated residents with home health and 100 unduplicated residents with home and community-based services. I think that the last question that was posed, which is, is the County the sole source of funding, is a very good one. So, the answer to that is, yes. Lāna`i Kinaole is a start-up home health service agency. They receive funding from the Department. Their staff has been providing home health to the community for 18 months, mostly because of the work of their volunteers. So, they're actively looking into obtaining Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement; but because of the rules associated with those reimbursements, have to be in business for two years minimum before applying for that, they think the County money has helped them establish that service record so that the agency can then pursue the Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Question 55, *Relating to the Maui Family YMCA*: Please provide the details for the gymnasium project (that's from myself), question a); b) *Is the County the sole funder for the new gymnasium, or is the requested amount a matching grant or supplemental funding? If so, what other funds have been secured?* (And that's from myself, Member King, Member Paltin) and c) *Has the YMCA conducted a capital campaign to raise funds?* (from Member King) and d) (from Member Paltin) *Do they currently have a gymnasium, and will the new gymnasium be open to the public at no cost?*

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Chair. Again, the Family . . . Maui Family YMCA's request for funding went directly to the Budget Office and the Mayor's Office and did not . . . was not received through the Department. So, therefore, in order to provide responses to your questions, I reached out to the agency to get these responses. So, I'll be responding as they did to me. The gym is Phase III of a three-phase project for the Y. Phase I was repairing current facilities. Phase II was remodeling current facilities. And Phase III is the construction of the new gym at the 250 Kanaloa Avenue property. The gym will be approximately 8,000 square feet and it includes a room for basketball, volleyball, pickle ball, spin classes, community meetings, and other activities. The estimated cost of the gym is \$3.5 million. Is the County the sole funder? Or is the requested amount matching grant or supplemental? So, currently, the Y has \$400,000 in the bank, a grant-in-aid pending at the State for \$2,500,000 and the request to Maui County, which came in at \$1 million but was reduced in the Mayor's Proposal to \$400,000. Third question, has the YMCA conducted a capital campaign? Yes, the goal for the capital campaign was 5.5 million. All money has been raised except for the current grant request to the State for 2.5 million and the County for 1 million. Phase I and 2 have been completed with the money raised leaving a balance of \$400,000. And response to the last question about whether the gym will be opened to the public at no cost - the gym will be part of the YWCA [sic] and the Y's current funding . . . current operating model includes revenues from memberships. So, program fees and charitable contributions. This model is a great working model for public and private collaborations because it provides for a one-time grant for infrastructure and not ongoing yearly support. As a charitable nonprofit, the Y does not turn anyone away due to inability to pay for membership. Last year, the Y provided over \$150,000 in financial assistance to Maui families and individuals. And the Y does plan to provide programming for the gym on a regular basis that will be opened to Y members and the public. The majority of their 1,500 program participants are, in fact, not members of the Y. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Question 56 – *Please outline what type of Professional Services the transferred County grant subsidy fund from Sub-object Code 6317/6330 [sic] will be used for.* Question from myself.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Professional Services that we're discussing are associated with our Volunteer Center. So, they include . . . the fees include digital marketing fees to promote the Volunteer Center and the Partner Agencies Volunteer and Invent Opportunity Needs on www.handsonmaui.com also referred to the Get Connected Program at times. The focus is on marketing with social media, email marketing, and website update and maintenance. It also . . . the fees also include co-sponsorship or volunteer leadership group training programs and forums, which include administrative assistance, technical assistance with the Get Connected Program for keeping it up-to-date and active for potential volunteers, and to promote the growth of volunteer programs as well as for the Annual Volunteer Hero Program and administrative assistance. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 57 is from me – *Is this proposed assistance funding for all languages? Please provide details for how this service will be administered. Is \$1,000 sufficient to meet the requirements of E.O. 13166?*

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, all languages are eligible for that translation services of the programs written documents. So our Assisted Transportation Program Limited English Proficiency Plan for implementation is going to be transmitted to you as our Department's Exhibit F. And we're . . . the \$1,000 is an estimate based on our current translation demands.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 59 – *Will the funds satisfy the completion of construction for the project?*

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair, again, this grantee request was made directly to the Budget Office and the Mayor's Office and the Department did not receive any detailed information about it. We have not been able to reach the grantee to ascertain that information for you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Mahalo. Question 60 from myself – *Please provide the current rental agreement and explain the \$65,000 increase. Was the amount funded for FY '20 insufficient to cover rent for the year?*

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The previous budget amount was actually an estimation based on the relocation of the Housing Division's office. So, the Fiscal Year '21 amount reflects the rent for the entire fiscal year. And this increase is paid via Federal funds from the Section 8 Program and no funding is taken from our County General Fund for this increase.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Question 62 – *When available, please provide quarterly and final reports for Molokai Humane Society ~~G~~grant award.* It's from Member Paltin. Question 63 – relating to the *Animal Management Program's Multi-Use Barn: a) Will the barn store an influx or overflow of animals?* (from Member Molina) *b) How many stray animals picked up and transported will be housed by the barn?* (from Member Paltin)

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, with this grantee, request was made directly to the Budget Office and to the Mayor's Office and did not pass through the Department and we've not been able to ascertain the information from the grantee who requested this funding. I would like to, if you will allow me, to answer the question about the quarterly and final reports for the Molokai Humane Society grant award?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead. Mahalo, Director.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the organization has yet to submit quarterly reports for Fiscal Year 2020 due to the late submission of their original proposal. So, once available, those reports can be forwarded to the Council. The agency failed to submit a completed proposal before the deadline; therefore, there was no executed grant awarded in Fiscal Year 2019, and thus, no reports are available for Fiscal Year 2019.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Question 64, from Member Molina – *Please provide status on the operation of the feral cat program. Has the increase of funding resulted in a significant reduction in feral cats?*

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. We were assisted in the response to this question by the Humane Society itself. So, the funding for the Maui Humane Society sheltering program and enforcement program is for more than just addressing the feral cat challenge. The Humane Society continues to promote and educate the public in this area. They oversee a trap, neuter, and release program as well as an aggressive spay/neuter effort. They have greatly expanded their efforts in managing this area with no additional funding from the County. But with support from various foundations, they've increased the number of surgeries as well as appointed grant-funded coordinator that works with the various County managers, does community education, and tracks all of their efforts. So, this has been effective in reducing cat colonies in known locations. It's difficult to come by reliable statistics because there's no agreed upon number of feral cats. I think that was discussed a couple weeks ago in Member Hokama's Committee, very divergent data about how many, where, et cetera. The Maui Humane Society is currently working with national experts on attempting to accurately establish a reliable estimate of the feral cat population here. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. The next ten questions are from Member Paltin. Please correct me if I'm wrong, Member Paltin, if you withdrew any of these questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . . *(Inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The next set of questions are Programs, Goals and Objectives.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I withdrew 66, 68, 70, 71 and 72.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Anyone else? Okay. Question 65, from Member Paltin – *How many of the estimated FY '20 affordable housing projects were developed? How many individual units were added to the housing inventory?* I think we talked about this so if you could kind of make it a little . . .

MS. TSUHAKO: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. So, Goal 2.2 in the Housing Division was to increase the County's inventory of affordable housing units and is tracked by the Department using the following metric. So, if you look at the number of housing projects that receive technical assistance in planning affordable or workforce units as it relates to 2.96, 2.97 and 201H. So, the Department proposed to provide technical assistance to 25 different projects. And to date, we have provided technical assistance to 21 different housing projects. So, what I can say is, if completed as proposed, those 21 housing projects would provide approximately 1,000 affordable units to our inventory.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Mahalo. Question 67, from Member Paltin – *Please provide a status update for all FY '20 goals and objectives to date for the homeless program.* And if you'd like to submit that to us in writing, that would be great. Okay. Question 69, from Member Paltin – *Does the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services already have data on the number of people screened for benefits?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the USCIS maintains data on the number of people who apply for immigration benefits. However, it does not screen applicant's appropriateness for immigration benefits. So, if a person applies for immigration benefits with incorrect forms or applies in an untimely manner or is denied a benefit for any reason, USICH [sic] does not return an applicant's fees. So, their application fees are for processing, not for approval. So, our goal at the Immigrant Services Division for screening those people are: to actually save people time and money so they're not assigned to something for which they are not eligible for which the timing is inappropriate; provide education and guidance for people seeking to determine their eligibility for immigration relief, as well as being able to request fee waivers; and to minimize risk to those people because some cases may not be appropriate for program assistance from our office anyway.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Last three questions, Question 73, from Member Paltin – *How many of the estimated FY '20 clients purchased a home with the County down payment assistance to date?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. To date, 29 households have closed on home purchases using the First-Time Home Buyer's down payment assistance.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question 74 from Pro Tem Kama – *How many vouchers were available before the waitlist opened up and how many are available now that the waitlist has closed?*

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair, I'm going to ask the Deputy Director to answer this question.

MS. MUNSELL: Madam Chair, the Housing Division actually received 1,464 regular Housing Choice Vouchers as well as another 35 vouchers that are specifically targeted towards veterans. We try to keep all of those vouchers on the street at all times. So, when we do have vouchers that come up and available, we try to pull people off the waitlist to put them into houses and back out there. So, I think that according to the data, we had 52 applicants who were still on the 2018 waitlist and we're going to call all of those folks before we start calling people from the 20 . . . the new waitlist, 2020 waitlist. I think that prior to the opening of the waitlist that we had ten vouchers that were available for use. And now that the waitlist is closed, there's another 20. And so, as people drop off the program, the vouchers become available, we put them back out on the street with someone new.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Munsell. Okay. Last question, Question 75, from Pro Tem Kama – *What are the specifics and who else applied but may have missed the deadline?*

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Kama. It's my understanding that the Department received one proposal for our . . . in response to the request for proposals for Experimental Housing Program. I don't think that the Department has yet formalized our evaluation and scoring of that proposal. So, to the best of my knowledge, there was just one proposal received.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. We've made it through all the written questions. Okay, Members, you need a ten-minute break because I sure do? Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair, there were two questions that came . . . were referred to Affordable Housing Fund yesterday's questions to the Finance Committee --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --or the Finance Department?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Director, we have two questions that came over from the Finance Committee [sic] question, and if you would like time to look into these because I know that they were not submitted to you before-hand. We can take a ten-minute break and then you can respond after that quick break or another time if you don't have the answers to it. So, Question 17, from Department of Finance, that was transmitted to the Department of Finance is found in the Budget Details, Page 6-62 and this is regarding the *Experimental and Demonstration Housing Fund deleting \$1 million*: a) *How much, if any, of these funds were used if some expenditure was completed?* Okay, and I think it's zero. b) *why wasn't anything done with this money?* c) *If there was only one respondent to the workshop, why wasn't, why didn't you issue an RFP to generate some more interest?* d) *It seemed like the Department was so willing to give up on this effort, why didn't you make changes to generate more interest?* And these questions were from Member Molina and Member Kama.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think that I will take you up on your offer to get that response in the ten-minute break that we get. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we'll send that over. And then the second question is *regarding the 5 percent increase to the Affordable Housing Fund, please explain the rationale of increasing the Affordable Housing Fund by 5 percent in these uncertain financial times*. And that's on Page 6-60 of the Budget Details and that's from Committee Vice-Chair King. So, if you would like to take a ten-minute break to kind of discuss that and when we come back then you can respond to those two questions. Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members, any objections to taking a ten-minute break?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. So, it's 2:03 so we'll reconvene at 2:15. Okay. All right, so 2:04 the Economic Development and Budget Committee will reconvene at 2:15. The Committee is in recess. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

RECESS: 2:04 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:19 a.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(gavel)* . . . The Economic Development and Budget Committee please return to order. It's 2:19 on April 8th. We are finishing our last two questions with the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Okay, Director?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for that recess. I'm going to ask Deputy Director Munsell to respond to the two additional questions that were relayed to us before our recess. Thank you.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you, Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you for the question. The Affordable Housing Funds don't actually appear in the Housing Division budget so we're not necessarily aware of what has been deleted in that. But just let me give you a feel for what did happen. We do know that a number of funds have been expended. When we held our informational meeting, we actually had 15 folks who came out and attended our workshop. And our feeling was that was a pretty positive response to an RFP for that many folks to actually come and expressed an interest in it. We only in the end had one application for those funds. So, although there was a lot of interest expressed initially, the feedback that we had received from the other respondents was that there were a number of barriers to having, to applying for these funds. And this is handled through the Maui County Code 16.28. So, the requirements are outlined in the Code there. The barriers that they were identifying was that these funds are targeted at the 80 percent and below AMI. It has an affordable in perpetuity requirement and it requires that the applicants . . . or the project be run by nonprofits. And, for whatever reason, the feeling was that those were enough of a barrier to result in having only one applicant. It's also, you know, something new for us so it might require more of an educational process if we've only had one respondent so far that doesn't mean we wouldn't succeed in the future. But they did identify those as barriers. So, just keep that in mind.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. MUNSELL: The other question . . .

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, good ahead.

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah, sorry. The other question that you asked was about the Affordable Housing Fund and that 5 percent change. Obviously, you could decide that you wanted to save some money. You can achieve some savings by not investing in the Affordable Housing Fund. But one of the things that I'll suggest to you is that often construction funds are used as an economic stimulus; that's not an unusual thing. And also keep in mind that \$1 million that we invested, the County, in affordable housing funds is not simply \$1 million. That \$1 million is used to leverage other funds from other sources. And so, that \$1.5 million that we're proposing to invest in one of our Kihei projects will actually result in \$60 million coming to the County in other funds, other sources. So, just keep that in mind. Also, there is a lag between the allocation of that funding and the actual construction. So, if we pull back on the affordable housing funds now, you're going to see a loss of housing in two or three years. So, this situation might be completely gone and yet we will have lost the future opportunity for that funding just down the road. So, just keep those things in mind. One of the things that I might suggest is that depending on how you balance things this could be an opportunity to be bold. The Kulamalu project had interesting timing. It just . . . it could be looked at as an opportunity is what I'm suggesting to you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director. Okay, Members, we finished the questions. And now, we'll do the round of five-minutes for each Councilmember. Ready, Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yes, thank you, Chair. I want to follow-up on that last question, Ms. Munsell. Because it wasn't a question of whether we should have an Affordable Housing Fund. It was the amount of 5 percent . . . are we going to be able to spend all that? What do have in the . . . what do we currently have left over in the Affordable Housing Fund that's, you know, going to carryover till the next fiscal year? How is the need going to be affected by this pandemic where people are now converting their rentals into, their short-term rentals into long-term rentals so there'll be more housing on the market for rentals and because it's been really slow. And I've been in touch with the Realtor's Association and it's been really slow moving houses right now. Almost nothing is moving so the price of housing is going down. And so, my thought was, do we really need the full 5 percent? If we dropped it to 4 percent, how much would we save in the budget to put towards other social programs that we might need immediately, you know, other . . . you know, I think rental assistance is good to put up because we're going to need . . . we might need more rental assistance because there's so many people who have lost their jobs. But could you just speak to that? I mean it was just a question about the amount going up to 5 percent and how much we would save.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you for the question. I don't have the calculation of what that percent . . . 1 percent of that would be just off the top of my head. But, and again, it's a choice of how you want to proceed and affect things that are three years down the road. And I do recognize that this is going to affect, have a economic downturn. We saw the same kind of thing in the 2009 economic downturn where a lot of people were

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

April 8, 2020

leaving . . . they couldn't afford to rent. They moved back into homes. The rental . . . monthly rental cost went down. The value of houses went down. I was fortunate. I would never have been able to afford to buy a house if that had not occurred. What we saw was a couple of things. Our First-Time Home Buyers which you guys talked about previously was actually instituted in 2010. It was very successful. People had a lot more ability because the house prices were down to be able to buy. So, we've got that going for us. There is going to be still strong interest in being able to find affordable rentals and affordable homes to buy. You know, you can . . . and again, it's a choice. You're going to have to make some tough decisions here and whether you want to invest in a construction project that's going to happen three years down the road or whether or you need to invest that fund, those funds. So that's going to be a choice for you. I'm going to just lay out the economic opportunities for you here and that's all . . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Could you also answer the question of how much is in, how much are we carrying over to '21 in the Affordable Housing Fund?

MS. MUNSELL: I'm not sure how much is being carried over. One . . .

MS. TSUHAKE: . . . we submitted a plan . . .

MS. MUNSELL: Huh?

MS. TSUHAKE: We're not carrying over . . . *(Inaudible)* . . .

MS. MUNSELL: Well, we . . . so, remember we . . . so, this past summer we get a number from the Finance Department that tells us how much money is available for us to RFP. And so, this year it was \$14 million. And what we did was we submitted a plan to the Mayor's Office and that plan I know has now been submitted to you. In that plan is \$12 million, more than \$12 million worth of projects that could move forward once they've been approved. Now, part of the challenge that we've seen in the last few years has been the timing and our ability to get those grants executed. Last year, we transmitted our plan to Council and for, you know, it's a new Council, new way of doing business. Those projects didn't get heard in a timely basis. The only project I think that actually got approved in the budget was the Hale Mahaolu Ewalu Project. And that project is very nearly done. The Hana project got kicked down the road and the project in Lahaina got kicked down the road. And so, instead of starting construction last year and starting expending those funds, those projects have been delayed. And it's a matter of making sure that we've got all of our ducks in a row and we're executing these things in a timely basis making sure that you know what those projects are so you can make informed decisions when the budget time comes around and then those funds are going to be . . . start moving. But it's not because there's not the interest and it's not because there's not the project. It's because the process isn't working as quickly as we need it to work.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, you feel like you would be able to expend the whole 5 percent if it . . . let's see if I added that on here.

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

April 8, 2020

MS. MUNSELL: I think that yes. I don't think that that's an issue.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. You have enough proposals?

MS. MUNSELL: As I said, we had . . . this year they were expecting . . . the 4 percent was \$8 million and something and we had proposals that were well over \$12 million. Because we had the funding available, we're able to spend that. Absolutely. Part of it's going to depend on how much money is available through the State and the Feds and whether they cut back on some of that stuff. But I'm feeling pretty confident. And if we had money in our Affordable Housing Fund, you know, would it be possible for us to choose to go and purchase land for our own developments? That's what we did with the Kulamalu Project that I mentioned before, right. In 2009 or '10 we bought the property up there and subsequently developed that project. So, you know, this could be an opportunity for us to purchase land that we haven't had in the past if we don't have the proposals that are afforded to us. But I think that we will have a lot of people that are interested in partnering with us.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Well, thank you for that. I think we have to balance it out with the need for, you know, seeing our affordable housing comprehensive plan that we just authorized an RFP for. But that was my main question because I do, you know, I support, I think there's going to be a higher need for rental assistance and probably first-time home buyers assistance. But I think the availability is going to increase and so, you know, I'd like to see if there's a review of what's happening currently because a lot of people that I know of that have short-term rentals or know of other people with short-term rentals is rentals are turning into long-term rentals now 'cause we don't have any tourists on the island. All right, thank you, Chair. I'll yield.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay. Then we'll go to . . . I think we went to Member Sinenci the last time, so we'll go to Pro Tem Kama and then we'll work our way left. Ready, Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I don't have any questions at this time. I'm going to wait until the budget priorities come up, if I may, to comment. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, so, Director, thank you very much for answering all of our questions and I look forward to your written responses. The first one that I wanted to . . . with the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of the economy, could the Department stop hiring in Fiscal Year 2021 new expansion positions that were presented to us in the budget and not fill positions for non-essential, vacant positions for non-essential employees? Did you give a thought to that?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Yes, we have considered that. I think we looked at the potential cost savings of not funding the requested expansion positions as well as the associated salary and benefits and the equipment that was requested as part

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

April 8, 2020

of the expansion positions, and I think the savings amounted to approximately \$173,000. But what we've done already for the current fiscal year in order to achieve greater Carryover/Savings in anticipation of meeting that next year is we've asked the Divisions to really look at their spending to not just buy stuff because they want stuff but to focus on things that are really important for their operation. And the Deputy Director and I will be scrutinizing more of the purchases more closely to ensure that it's money that has to be spent versus, you know, I want to buy 50 cases of paper. So, we are looking at ways to increase what we can recapture for Carryover/Savings for next year. And I think we did a rough calculation with our Divisions this morning and it looks like we could potentially achieve about . . . maybe about \$1,700,000 savings based on what we're hearing about not hiring non-essential folks right now and carrying it into the labor savings going forward. So, we do a strategy for that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Could you submit that in writing also when you submit to the Budget Chair? My second question is, I know during your answers you talked about you have grants and that . . . of course your grants, you know, actually service all the different islands. So I was . . . and we were talking about cutting back, the Council, all travel 50 percent for Fiscal Year 2021 like as a formula, and I wonder if you could—maybe not now, you may not be ready—but if you could look at your grants and see, do you have to service the outer islands as part of your grants through travel and would that be too stringent if we asked you to do that as it would affect the requirements of the grants that are issued to you from Federal and State for your services. And if you could get back to us on that. And then, you also mentioned . . . this is Rental Assistance Program, which is 1.4 million, and you gave us the agencies that administer that serving 273 families. And I think Member King mentioned about possibly looking at increasing that Rental Assistance Program because of COVID-19 and what's happening with those 7,000-8,000 working families that lost jobs and there may be a need for that. So, I was just wondering in terms of capacity of the agencies that you work with if we were to put more funding for the Rental Assistance Program, would they be able to increase helping our residents or are they maxed out in terms of being able to help because of the paperwork I would imagine but do you have a comment on that?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Sugimura. I think that the four agencies who've been implementing the Rental Assistance Program are experienced enough and have potential to be able to utilize a little bit more money. Just for information purposes I want your body to understand also that we expect the Federal government through HUD to be passing through additional Emergency Solutions Grant funding to the County or directly to the provider agency, and there is a plan to use some of that money for what's called Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing, which means that we would be helping people remain housed, helping them with arrears, and with utilities, or whatever to maintain their housing so that we can avoid having them become homeless because of this emergency. So, we are anticipating those funds to be here in the next several weeks. Additionally, I've spoken with Mr. Pontanilla of CDBG there's possibility that additional CDBG funds could be used for tenant-based rental assistance vouchers as well. So, what we're kind of focusing on right now is looking at the influx of new resources and how best to plan for that so that we're not stepping over each other and we're not

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

April 8, 2020

unnecessarily duplicating but we're actually coordinating the effort ~~sofer~~ that ~~the~~ requirements of each program can be met and yet we're still getting the optimal outcome for the community.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, my questions, first one is all the monies that the Council had put in last fiscal year that didn't get expended, does that just go back into the General Fund as Carryover/Savings . . . the feasibility study for the Anchor Square, the parcel studies, the homeless money and whatnot?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Member Paltin. If the money is not spent, it does revert back to General Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then . . .

MS. TSUHAKEO: It gets recaptured . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And then for number 40, when you said that RFPs went out can you tell me how long the turnaround time was to turn it in after and would you mind sending us a copy of what the RFP stated for the Homeless Programs at least the one on Maui, the \$250,000?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Member Paltin. Usually the standard for procurement is a month to respond so it's usually 30 days.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Uh-huh.

MS. TSUHAKEO: I'm not absolutely certain that that's the deadline we gave but it's usually not shorter than 30 days. I can forward you the request for proposal that was issued by the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And I understand that you had said that for the Homeless Program that your focus is on housing people, and I totally agree with that. I think we shouldn't focus on anything less than that. However, Mr. Nakama did come into the Chambers and he was saying that, you know, there's many folks out there that don't want to be housed. And I'm sure there's also those, you know, with situations going on in their brain and whatnot substance issues that don't want to be housed. And so, what is the Department's plan for those people? If people, I mean, I totally support us focusing on housing people but if they don't want to be housed and yet they still need assistance, is our plan then to be not to help them? And in this situation where we're dealing with a pandemic, then do they strain our other resources and put the greater population at a bigger risk by having open wounds and taxing our resources?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Paltin. We have a certain population, percentage of our population who when offered services focused on housing do refuse those services. And it's for, you know, a number of reasons. Sometimes it's because they're just not ready. Sometimes they prefer to use their Social Security benefits to purchase alcohol or sometimes they just don't want to live within four walls. I think the challenge of our outreach providers is to continuously interact with these folks and ensure that the providers are working on getting those documents that will allow that person to become housed once they say, yes, I'm ready to be helped. I think that's really critical is that, you know, just because somebody says they don't want to be housed one day doesn't mean that the outreach providers don't again and again and again. And that is what our service system has to be able to do is when that person says, yes, you have to have a response to that, right. So, I think that those folks who tend to issue the assistance, the housing assistance, do put a burden on our larger service systems. They use the emergency rooms more frequently. They're transported by ambulance more frequently to the hospital and their medical help needs maybe not being addressed properly because of their isolation. So, what we're focused on right now in this current crisis is to follow CDC guidance and that means not to disturb large 20 or more encampments because with people scattered, it makes much more difficult for them to be . . . their locations to be tracked. But to provide education to the extent possible, provide supplies like hand sanitizers, soap and things like that to keep people as safe as possible that, you know, I've said this before is some of our homeless population are already isolated just by the very nature of how they're living, they're isolated. And so those of us who are not as isolated and we have more contact with others may, in fact, be exposing those homeless, I mean, those homeless people to the higher chance of infections. So, we want to all take precautions so that the homeless providers as well as the homeless individuals won't be exposed to that kind of risks. So, it's clearly a balancing act for us . . . for us as a service system. But I think we're trying really hard to do as best a job as we can. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. Gosh, what a hard time for this Department and Divisions. My comment or question is more about . . . I'm going to ask about maybe more about refocusing direction. While I appreciate comments about homeownership from testifiers and the Mayor's proposed, current proposal, I'm more concerned about temporary emergency housing and sheltering for either those that have mortgage issues or those that have rental issues, especially the private sector that is unemployed currently. So, my thing is, yeah, we can talk about homeownership but when one-fourth of your community is unemployed so much for ownership. We're just trying to survive. So, don't you think we need to redirect money more to temporary emergency housing, Director?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Hokama. It looks like with the number of unemployed people we have I think, don't quote me on this, but I think MEO just started rolling out their HELP Program that the County funded for emergency assistance. And I believe on Friday they received over 800 phone calls. So, it gives you a little bit of an indication of what the community need might be. And I think that right now we are able to supplement those contracts for the Rental Assistance Program. In addition, that HELP Program is also able to help people with rent in arrears. As I mentioned earlier, the anticipated additional grant revenue from the Emergency Solutions Grant will also help with homeless prevention and rapid re-housing, all of those pieces of the puzzle put together should provide a little bit of a buffer for the community in terms of managing the immediate and short-term housing needs for them.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, and again, I appreciate that. I would also ask your Housing Division pay attention to what happens to the housing market as potential defaults and valuations of real property makes its adjustments during the crisis. So, I appreciate that. My second question is more about the CIP projects that your Human Concerns side has been receiving. I noticed lot of your projects or projects that have been proposed are asking for partial funding of their what I would consider a total project requirement. So, is there an assumption that we're going to fund the balances of the project if they get partial funding this year? Is that the assumption, they're going to come back and ask us for the balances? Or is this one time?

MS. TSUHAKE: Mr. Hokama, the only response that we received to that question about whether ongoing funding would be requested was given to us by Wes Lo from Hale Makua. And his response was, yes, I'm, you know, I'm going to come back for more funding after I get this money for planning and design of that integrated health care building. The other grantees who are receiving . . . or who are requesting funds for capital projects did not indicate that they would not come back for additional funding from the County.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. I appreciate your response, Director. I'm okay at this time, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi. Director Tsuhako, I'm going to bring up two things that you're familiar with but, first of all, when you talked about capacity, more capacity for the homeless, I think when I brought that up in a meeting with the Mayor weeks ago, I was talking about what has the County been doing to assist the current nonprofits with expanding their capacity. Now, let's take for example the mobile hygiene unit. You mentioned that as something you looked at as expanding capacity. Well, that is not a money-making project like a food truck. So, naturally if the County acquires this mobile unit, yeah, we're going to have to provide the resources that go with this unit. So, you can't just give over a truck to let's say to the Salvation Army or somebody without checking whether they need somebody to drive it or they need resources to add to the truck. So, I think it's the County's obligation to when you're trying to expand capacity that you look at the whole project and not just a portion of it. And then the other thing

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

April 8, 2020

that was mentioned is, you know, the homeless let's say at Kanahā today's homeless is very different from before. Can you hear me? Madam Chair, can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm looking for where the sound is coming from.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Lori, she run out of the room?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I also paused the timer because there's a lot of noise happening so I just . . . I paused your timer so I can stop the additional sounds.

VICE-CHAIR KING: It sounded like somebody's door opening and closing.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. So, yeah. So, I was just looking to mute whoever's mic that was. Okay. Okay, Chair Lee, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, now I'm moving on to homeless encampments. You know, before, we were concerned about . . . the philosophy years ago was to keep moving them so that they wouldn't settle down and stake claims in certain areas and that they would continually strive to look for housing themselves with our help. Well, today's homeless is different. At Kanahā, for example, and I know you've seen this, there's approximately 80 people by the sewer treatment plant all parked along that Amala Road, and thank you and the Mayor for providing resources lately - three luas, one hand washing station, and one shower. But the difference with this group of people is that they have structure. They're organized. Auntie Penny down there is in charge. They have curfews, they have rules and they all follow. So, this is a little different hybrid of homeless. So, I think we have to be able to adjust to the new kinds of people that are coming up and their needs 'cause the needs change over time. And then, another example would be helping capacity, helping grow capacity with Family Life Center. Because when you think about it there's only four or five nonprofits who do this work. So, it's not that hard to find them. But many of them need to grow capacity and they're not sure how. And this is where I believe that the County can provide the leadership, the guidance, the vision, the resources, and ongoing maintenance support. So, in Family Life Center's case they have that chapel right next door to them, and I've seen it, I've been in there several times and it can hold about 20 people. Now, this property is going to be for sale. So, this is something that I think we seriously have to look at purchasing and helping them to renovate because what could be more perfect. The administration of Family Life Center is like four steps away from the chapel. So, everything could be, you know, in one central area. So, these are the issues that I'm very concerned about and I'm hoping that when we give you extra money that you do make the extra effort to contact these people 'cause we're not talking about hundreds of organizations. We're talking about four or five. So, you know, if we help them and reach out to them and . . . 'cause it's very difficult for them because their resources are very stretched and limited. So, if we can help them expand their capacity, I know that we can do a better job with the homeless.

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

April 8, 2020

And then with the homeless what we want to do is help them step up, progress to future home ownership. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Did you want a response?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, not necessarily.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I heard her response. I was responding to her response.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Question for Director Tsuhako. You know, you noted that the parcel study was not implemented because of the delay regarding the hiring of the Housing Coordinator position. However, couldn't this study have been contracted without the need for the Housing Coordinator? And since you hired the position in September it's been roughly six months and why hasn't this study been pursued? And I ask these questions in response to one of the responses you gave with regards to the homeless that the Administration's position is to house the homeless, and I totally agree with that. So, which, in my opinion, makes it a priority for these parcel studies of our County-owned properties to be made a very high priority 'cause that way we can get a lot of our homeless, especially our working homeless, people who are working out of their cars or people who are living in tents. These are the people that we especially want to help and provide shelter. And Director Munsell, I just want to also add I totally agree with you on your position with regards to the increasing of the percentage for the Affordable Housing Fund because it is true it is an economic stimulus. And the visitor industry for a long time has been our number one economic driver but it's gone down, and it's going to be a while before it gets up. The next important driver of our economy is the construction industry, and luckily, we still have that going. So, with the implementation of more housing projects it's our sole economic driver for the short term. So, I totally agree with you on that and maybe there may be room for increasing that percentage. And I like that Kulamalu project too. That's what we need more of those types of condominium projects. So, anyway, sorry, Director Tsuhako, with the time left, can you answer the two questions I have?

MS. MUNSELL: So, just to address a couple of those things. So the . . . some of the funding was used to actually study some parcels so we are actively in the process of looking at the Waiale North and South; and that's . . . the results of those studies are pending here shortly. So, the Administration did take control of some of those funds to do that. On the other hand, we also looked at a whole string of County-owned parcels on whether we could actually use some of those for housing. In almost every case, what we found was there's another purpose that is being planned for those parcels. When we finally did identify a parcel that we thought that we should be studying, it was suddenly included in this larger thing. So, there was that whole process that we went through. The other thing is hiring that Development Specialist. You know, of course we got the dorm project and, you know, he's just come on board in September. We're finally getting

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

April 8, 2020

to a point where we can start construction. And so, the hope is that we want him to be driving that as well as once we do . . . get some decision on the Waiale North and South. You know, there's going to be a lot of work that he's going to be involved in if that happens. That doesn't preclude us from looking at other parcels, but they aren't going to be County-owned parcels. I think that we've pretty much . . . unless it's this Waiale North and South. I think we've pretty much gone through that list and right now they've got other uses for those. So, it would be a matter of changing our focus to whether we want to actually actively pursue other infill projects or not or if we're going to continue to partner with other developers for those kinds of projects.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for your responses; and thank you, Madam Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to, you know, thank Director Tsuhako and her staff and the Department, I guess, just for being able to be flexible and to deal with the current circumstances. I know your Department deals directly with kūpuna and directly with our constituents of the County. So, I appreciate your ability to be flexible. I'm just saying that . . . my question was because the grant applications came in over, submitted prior to the COVID pandemic, I mean, is there a process for them to be maybe . . . taking a look . . . I support some of the Members' suggestions to restructure but is there a process for nonprofits to be taking a look at their grant applications again to, to look at if there are any travel that could be cut. If they can refocus, you know, some of their priorities in the areas that we've been talking about homeless. I'll support increases for . . . to address the homeless and to, you know, for those greater needs but, I mean, I guess that was my question – is there a process for them?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Sinenci, for your question. As of right now, there is no process for nonprofits to come in with a revised request because the Mayor has already transmitted his proposal which was, as you guys all know, was done several weeks ago. So, there's not an avenue for that, I think, but for speaking directly to your body and asking for those revisions to be made in their budget request. I've not received any requests from any agency over the last ten days or two weeks asking for a change in amount or goal for their requested funding. I think that if the opportunity were provided probably a lot of nonprofits would come in but then, you know, it would require the Administration to look at all those requests and vet them again and transmit them again through a different venue to you. And I'm not sure if there's enough time in what we've established as a –

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right.

MS. TSUHAKE: --budget process for those amendments to actually be done.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And I did hear you say that you would be scrutinizing, you know, some of their receipts or their funding requests, those types of things that

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

April 8, 2020

come through the Department. Just a follow-up question, was the 5 percent cuts that you presented earlier was that applied to the 2021 Budget?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes. The recommendations for that reduction were primarily to look at all expansion grants. So, for example, some items that we talked about during the questioning: Hale Makua, Family YMCA, Imua Family requests, those are all expansion grant requests. There's also the requests that were made in addition to Fiscal Year 2020 levels. So, some grantees asked for additional funding for 2021 above what they received in 2020. So, if I look at all those expansion requests as well as the additional requests made from existing grantees, then that totals about \$1.9 million; but those were eliminated, for example, the Department would achieve its 5 percent savings.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great. Thank you, Director. And then finally, Chair, I was just asking clarification. What is the timeline, when we were talking about the separation of the Housing with the Human Concerns . . . separating the Department, has there been a timeline for that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director?

MS. TSUHAKE: Excuse me, Madam Chair. I thought that question was directed at you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. TSUHAKE: So, yeah, I think Member Sinenci's question was about the timetable for possible bifurcation. I think, Member Sinenci, that the bifurcation of the Department has to be on the ballot in November as a Charter Amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Okay, thank you.

MS. TSUHAKE: So, I'm not sure what the timing of that . . . like when does it have to be decided before it's added to the ballot or not?

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, Member Sinenci. Was that question for me?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No. I just said that I had one more question. That's all.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Mahalo. Okay. And . . . okay, alright. So, my first question is regarding the type of grant education and outreach that's performed. So, OED does like outreach and education on how to apply for grants. We had a testifier earlier this morning that talked about not knowing like the process on how to apply for grants. And you know, I know a lot of people do outreach work, you know, particularly for our extended communities that sometimes are overlooked. So, what kind of education outreach does the Human Concerns Division, Grants Division, do?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the Grants Management Division publishes the opportunities for grant funding. And in addition to that, they hosted workshops on Molokai, on Lānaʻi, and in Central Maui over the summer of last year. And we invited agencies both current grantees as well as potential grantees to attend those. Our Grants Management staff went through . . . where generally the requirements for getting grant funding from the County, going through the process of what kind of paperwork needs to be submitted, being able to show compliance with Hawaiʻi Compliance Express, for example, having budgets for the money that's proposed. You know, all of the metrics . . . I think one of the things that we, as a Department, tried to do over 2019 is we tried to look at our performance measures and transformed them from output to outcome. And we had a specialized training with HANO for that for our Division people and we're trying to provide that same sort of technical assistance to the grantees --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. TSUHAKEO: --so that we . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I appreciate that shift that your Division made. I think it's awesome and I support it. How many new organizations attended these workshops?

MS. TSUHAKEO: I don't know, but we can get that information.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MS. TSUHAKEO: I . . . no, I attended the one in Wailuku but I'm not sure if there was a sign-in sheet. I'm not positive.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, I . . . for those that receive grant funding, you know, I think they kind of already know the process so, you know, reaching out to those that provide services to our community I think is really important who have never received County funding before because if they're doing good work for our community, you know, I'd really like to support them especially if there's an excess amount of grant funding, you know, and you would have to do like a second round, to me, you know, that means perhaps more promotion and advertising about the, you know, these grant opportunities could be done. So, I think, you know, you spoke a little bit about how, you know, like we want to prevent duplication of services. I think with, you know, like the houseless, you know, in addressing the houseless population that's going to continue to grow potentially with the crisis that we're in, actually it's already growing, that it's such a huge problem that I think we need more entities that are helping from different angles. So, you know, I guess I don't really see it so much as a duplication of services if, you know, one entity is, you know, addressing, you know, one segment of the community, of that population and another entity is addressing another segment. It's such a multi-faceted, you know, issue that I think, you know, it's . . . I guess I don't . . . I wouldn't see it as duplication because it's such a big problem that, you know, I think a number of organizations, it would be okay for them to start addressing it and I would like to support that. And I wanted to make a clarification for the Molokai

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

April 8, 2020

General Hospital. I did reach out to them. They didn't miss the deadline. They're working on being more self-sufficient. And there's my alarm. Done. Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam Chair, yeah, so my comments about those three grantees who didn't request funds, so Molokai General Hospital, they actually told our Grants Management Division that they had received other funding and that they were satisfied with the funding that they received; and that, you know, the funding could . . . that they were given prior, could be given to other entities. So, it was . . . you have to commend them for that. So, it wasn't a missed deadline. It was just they got monies from other sources and didn't need the County's support; so, we appreciate that about how they ran that program.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Okay, so we have a lot of priorities under this Department. I think just about everyone. So, Chair Lee has two, Member Hokama has two, Member Kama has three, Member Sugimura has two, Member Sinenci has one, Member Molina has two, and I have three. So, we'll start with Chair Lee. If, you'd like to take up both, I'll put two minutes for each item on the clock.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Did you say we're going to vote on this? Did you say vote?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, we're likely not going to get consensus. Member Hokama already expressed not getting consensus for any priorities moving forward. And so, right now, we'll just . . . we'll present the proposals, everyone's proposals, see if Members have questions, see if the Department would like to comment on the proposals and then we'll take it to decisions week. And you have 1) to add \$1 million to the Homeless Program, and 2) to . . . for Substance Abuse Programs.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Those are my two programs that I try to watch carefully. We certainly need a lot more money under homeless. I can see a number of projects coming up because it's, you know, we might go from a parking lot to a, you know, tent area to the type of housing they have in Waimanalo, I mean, endless possibilities. So, I'm proposing \$1 million in this area, but I'm sure we're going to need more. And then, under Substance Abuse, I didn't put any money because we have to see how things go. And those are my two top priorities for this Department, Madam Chair, and thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Director, would you like to comment on those two priorities, proposals?

MS. TSUHAKE: No, thank you, Madam Chair. I think Council Chair Lee and I have had many discussions and I understand where she's coming from. And I will be able to accept those priorities from her. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members, one question, one follow-up for either Chair Lee or Department. Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King?

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I just have a question on the Homeless Program money. And I fully support that, but would that encompass the one above it that is from our Budget Chair, which has 50,000 in it? It looks like it's the same program or is it a different program, Chair Lee?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's my priority proposals so I'll bring it up when it's my turn.

VICE-CHAIR KING: No, I'm just asking her if it's a different program from the one that you proposed.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She wouldn't know --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Because they both say, homeless.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --they're my priority proposals.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: These are different programs. But at some point in time we might be all joining together in . . . with common goals and common programs. But right now, it's just to put it out there what our priorities are. And we may not have a specific program in mind yet.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, yours is not specific and it could be that if the Share Your Mana Program needs more funding, that could come under your . . . what you're proposing?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I certainly support Lisa Darcy and what she's doing and Abel Garcia and all these people who are really are out there every day helping the homeless and I think that they really deserve more support and resources from the County.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, yes, I would be happy to, you know, support them.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Agree. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. We'll go to Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I'm supportive of additional funds. I know that there are already funds allocated for the homeless, so I appreciate this opportunity to really focus on our unsheltered population and to make sure that they're properly funded, and funds are allocated in the areas most needed. So, I'm supportive, Chair. Thank you.

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

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. So, I have a total of four minutes to do my two proposals? Can I get that clarification?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, questions . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, no. Oh, oh, wait. We're not doing it. Oh, we're just asking questions. Okay. I was just excited. Oh, no, I think Member Lee's proposals are wonderful and I'll leave it at that. No questions at this point. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And to answer your question, yes. Okay. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, I'm happy for the proposal from Chair Lee because it's another way of looking at temporary assistance for housing for our community. So, I appreciate this other perspective to approach the issue. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I completely support Member Lee. My situation is that we currently have 250,000 for Maui and 50,000 for Molokai for homeless programs and 75,000 for substance abuse education, and, you know, I don't feel confident. You know, like we put this money in because we believe it. I believe in everything that Member Lee says. I totally support her 100 percent in what she's saying. But I don't want to put this money in here for it to sit around and then we're raising people's taxes or whatever to collect this money and it's just sitting there. Like, right now, there's so many newly homeless people because everybody is laid off and we have \$250,000 just sitting in this account, you know, like that's my problem with the issue. I support the idea but I'm not confident that putting money in it is going to result in the result that we want to see based on Fiscal Year '20 situation and the update on these index codes of Council-added proviso in homeless programs and substance abuse. So, support it but that's the situation that I'm under.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I respond?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . . *(Inaudible)* . . . answer.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I respond? Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I think . . . you bring up very valid points, Member Paltin. But I think right now we're at a stage where there's a sense, a high sense of urgency. By helping the homeless, we will keep them out of the hospitals and the clinics. So, our caregivers are being overwhelmed now so we don't want the homeless to continue to show up at ER and all these places to be served by the workers who are needed for the COVID virus crisis. So, we need to look at things differently. We have to take care of

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

April 8, 2020

the homeless because they are going to create, if we don't watch it, they're going to create other issues that we are not prepared to deal with. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair Lee, I support you and I hope they use the 250,000 that they have right now, right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I just had a comment. You know, my earlier question to Ms. Darcy is, you know, prior to addressing this problem, we need to get some kind of inventory of, you know, where our highest needs are; where are the larger population of unsheltered are; and what kinds of needs, whether it's psychological needs or medical needs, what types of needs do we have. And I don't think we even have that basic information just yet. My comments. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Support. Support. Move forward.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I don't necessarily have a question, but I think I would have to agree with Member Paltin and also Member Lee that we have to . . . we are in an emergency situation. Therefore, how we used to do things before we can't be doing it that way. I mean, because if we expect to change the results, we have to change the behavior which means we have to think about how we are thinking now. So, we're in an emergency. Things are of . . . this is of such great dire emergency and urgency that, you know, if you ever lived through an influenza of pandemic, and I was just doing some research about the 1918 pandemic that was so horrid that if you read it you would almost see, is that where we're headed today? And people have said that's where we're headed. So, I think we need to think ahead long term and think differently about what we want the results to be. I think we should be planning for taking care of our homeless and our unsheltered because unemployment equals very little or no money. No money means no purchasing of anything, including food and shelter. So, I want us to be able to think about that as we move forward in looking at our budget projections and our priorities. But thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay. That was everyone. Okay, me. I support both of Chair Lee's proposals. And I think one of the things, you know—so I'll present my priority after—for the \$1 million for the houseless program. I think one of the things that . . . one of the challenges that we're experiencing right now is we're looking at, you know, the existing and growing houseless population as one general problem, and it's not. You know, there's layers to it. There's chronic houseless

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

April 8, 2020

individuals who, you know, may be struggling with substance abuse, mental health issues; and then there's displaced families and individuals that may have, you know, maybe living in their car right now because of this crisis that we're in. And depending on what the economic situation looks like after and how quickly we'll be able to recover, you know, that number could climb. And . . . but I just think, you know, that we need to look at it as immediate needs, you know, addressing what those that are, you know, that have struggled with chronic houselessness and those that have recently been displaced and seeing what their immediate needs are and then, you know, looking forward to how we would prevent houselessness moving forward. And so, I think, you know, Chair Lee and Member Hokama are, you know, those are like kind of two different things that are being talked about but they both address this one thing but in different ways. And so, I think it's important that we not lump it all together and see the problem as, you know, black and white because it's not. And so, I support, you know, these two proposals. Okay. So, Member Hokama has two proposals. Member Hokama, are you ready to present your two proposals, priority proposals?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yes. Yes, thank you, Chair. So, the first one is my number one countywide priority. I've listed, at this time, and I just used what I thought was reasonable numbers, Chair, from my experience regarding land management for Lānaʻi. I'm proposing about \$600,000 of General Fund for feral animal management and control that would be proviso'd by ensuring that each island has sufficient funds to help develop what works for their particular region regarding feral animals. So, you know, this could be for the deer, this could be for the cats, this could be for the chickens; but I trust that each community or region of the county best understands their situation, their ma`a about their community and their surroundings. So, I am proposing that 300,000 be used for Maui. And I use that because, again, I believe that deer are smart so they're going to go where there's water. Well, there's an issue of East Maui I know is going to impact West Maui. So, maybe for West Maui we can plan a better mitigation program to minimize impact to the watershed. But for Molokai and Lānaʻi I'm proposing \$150,000. And I can tell you that currently working with Pūlama Lānaʻi, we are offering for the next couple of weekends free residential hunt of feral axis deer to supplement the food supply for our community as one way of doing animal management control. And then my second ask is my last – number 5 priority for my district, which is an ice machine and generator for the Lānaʻi Senior Center. This is something my kupunas have been asking to support them. They're pretty much all connected through a cell phone and a lot of it for their backup generation is required for a lot of them who use support equipment such as oxygen, equipment that helps provide additional clean air as well as charging for their heart requirements and personal health equipment. So, that's my request from this Department. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Director, do you have any comments regarding Member Hokama's two priority proposals?

MS. TSUHAKE: None, Madam Chair, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. Committee Vice-Chair King and then Member Sinenci.

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Can you hear me, okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Mr. Hokama, for your proposals. I just had one question on the Feral Animal Management Control Program. Was that . . . was the intention to put that into grant money to be and put out an RFP so that different groups would have an opportunity to bid on it or was there an intention of having this go directly to one of the departments to manage the program?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: All right. Chair, if you don't mind, my suggestion to the Budget Committee would be to allow . . . to fund the money to the Department and allow the Department to put an RFP out so that . . . *(inaudible)* . . . could apply and propose a program to approach the management.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, it would be like under a grant-type program.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yes, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: They're going to tell us what their outcomes would be, and we would hold them to that funding.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, great. I think that's great because we have different groups, I think that are interested in that so. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, totally support that. And I support your other proposal as well for Lāna`i. That's all, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Member Sinenci and then Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I'm supportive of Member Hokama's feral animal management control. For East Maui, we've had some neighborhood meat share programs in the past. So, something like this could re-generate that practice especially in these current times that we need to rely on sustenance and sustainability. So, I'm supportive and we can look at . . . East Maui we can help to, you know, to direct where these fundings could go to some nonprofits that are doing these things. So, thank you for presenting it. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No questions at this time, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sorry. I support Member Hokama. Good idea.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Paltin and then Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. My first question, is this in addition--I forget where I saw it, but I think the Mayor had like 1.5 million for axis deer mitigation--so is this in addition to that amount? And my second question is, how far is the Lānaʻi Senior Center from the Lānaʻi Fire Department?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Let me hit the first question first, Ms. Paltin. I'm not too sure about the Mayor's funding. I just, I know that we've discussed in Committee the current amount that I guess some groups had concern about how the current operation or the current grant is being utilized especially with potential waste of feral game meat. But I would say that I'm looking at the . . . doing something slightly different by allowing the community groups to propose mitigation program as well as how to utilize the benefits of the management program for regional use. So, I'm looking at something very different from what is currently going on. I think we can make it a better community benefit program by allowing the regional approaches. And then what was your second one? What was your second part?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How far is the Lānaʻi Senior Center from the Lānaʻi Fire Station, because I believe the Mayor put in for ice machines for all the fire stations as a sort of Resilience Hub benefit.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. So Lānaʻi, the Senior Center is the last County facility that we wish to make these type of improvements, Ms. Paltin. The current Lānaʻi station is, I would say, a little bit . . . about half a mile away. But we, the Council and the County, responded quickly after our two-week blackout that we had on the island about four years ago. So, yeah, the fire station is up to par with a new gas tank, a portable generator, and an ice machine for their needs. But we've been asked for the Seniors component as another outreach since without the County there is basically no government facilities on Lānaʻi. Thank you for your questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was Page 68 for the axis deer mitigation - 1.5 mill.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Thanks, Tamara.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sugimura then Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Mr. Hokama, I support your Lānaʻi ice machine for the Senior Center. And then for the feral animal I actually had a similar question to Member Paltin because under OED there's a 1.5 allocation for axis deer. But I think you're right to broaden it to feral in general that I like that thought, and I think that you're heading down the same path as I am. You'll see when we take OED up. I have a discussion going on about the 1.5 million. So, we can talk about it at the appropriate time and I look towards the Department to administering the funds. So, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Pro Tem Kama.?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I support Member Hokama's proposals. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: . . . Mr. Molina.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member . . . Pro Tem Kama has three priority proposals. I didn't have any questions for Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Okay. Yeah. Pro Tem Kama, you have three priority proposals. I'll put six minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I just want to take some time to just thank the Budget Committee and the Department of Housing [sic] for all the hard work that they put into talking about this issue of housing whether it's for the unsheltered or those who are going to be currently displaced knowing that . . . knowing that we don't know what's going to happen tomorrow or next month or six months or a year down the road. But, for me, it doesn't look like it's going to get any better before it gets worse. So, what I would like to see happen is to establish a new capital project to acquire the existing

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

April 8, 2020

building at 95 South Kane Street in Kahului and to renovate that building and property, and provide additional shelter beds at a proposed cost of \$3 million. This is a critical need we know that to be able to help Family Life Center to expand their programs and that's what I'm looking at to be able to create additional shelter space for an increasing number of unsheltered individuals. And the location is central and it has exceptional accessibility. My second priority is the \$200,000 for a mobile hygiene unit to serve the needs of the unsheltered in Central Maui. I know I wanted to do this last year. We didn't have a nonprofit to take it but I still want to be able to put it in because I still think that we're going to be needing a third one and we have to be a little more aggressive as we go out looking for a nonprofit to do this. Also, my third proposal was to be able to provide \$5 million for Catholic Charities for the Housing Development Corporation for the development of their affordable housing development for approximately 150 units on the site of the former Kahului Swap Meet. So, funds shall be granted to Catholic Charities Housing Development Corp. in a timely manner so that they can be considered by HHFDC in its funding allocation process. Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation is planning a family-oriented 150-unit housing development in two phases on the site of the former Kahului Swap Meet. By providing this grant, Catholic Charities can obtain State grants and Federal low-income housing tax credits to match the County's contribution. And those are my proposals, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair? Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I ask for like a one-minute recess please, please?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's 3:36 and the Economic Development and Budget Committee will take a brief recess at the call of the Chair. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're now in recess. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

RECESS: 3:36 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:39 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(gavel)* . . . The Economic Development and Budget Committee please return to order. It's 3:39 on April 8th. And we left off with . . . I don't remember. Where were we?

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Tasha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina? No. Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Questions for Tasha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And was that for Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Well, yeah, I would . . . but I think we . . . do we want to give Housing a chance to comment on those priorities?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(Inaudible)* . . . Okay, that's where we were. I should have written it down. Sorry. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: That's okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director, would you like to comment on Pro Tem Kama's three priority proposals?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to defer to the Deputy Director for comments.

MS. MUNSELL: So, the Catholic Charities proposal to develop the Swap Meet site sounds very exciting to us, that is thrilling. I know that we've been hearing that this project was coming. We didn't know what the timing was of that. I'm assuming that they're talking about applying for the next round of funding. So, we'll look forward to seeing a proposal in our office for Affordable Housing Fund. Is that what our expectation is that they'll be applying for the funding in the next round here coming up?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, Chair . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Yes, Chair, she's correct. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Mahalo. Committee Vice-Chair King and then we'll go to Member Sugimura and work our way left.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, I guess Housing didn't have any comments on the other two areas. Okay. Yeah, I have no problem with that, that's part of the Affordable Housing Fund. I had a question about the establishing the capital project. Would that go . . . which . . . is that something that's going to be . . . you're proposing that the County develop, Member Kama? Who would build this . . . who would renovate the building, or would they put it out to bid or do you have an organization that would oversee this project?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Family Life Center would be the organization that I would because it's right next door.

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: What was that? What organization?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Family Life Center.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, Family Life Center. Okay. I didn't see that on here. Okay, so this would be a project for Family Life Center.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, the money would be for them.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: And then, okay, and then the . . . I just wondered on the mobile hygiene unit since we funded it this year and didn't get through that if that could be something that could be funded under the homeless program monies so that it's not necessary . . . so, if we can't find anybody to do this that the money could go toward something else. Because what happened this year was it was only allocated for this and while we couldn't find somebody to do this mobile hygiene unit, which I totally support, I just think that it would be a waste of money to have it just sit there if there's something else that could be done with it? That would be my only concern.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I don't have a problem with that, Member King. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Charter Section 9-20, Affordable Housing Funds may be used for provisions, protection, and expansion of affordable housing and suitable living environments for persons of very low to gap income, including rehabilitation of structures, land purchase. I don't know if the Director would like to comment on that. I want to say that we cannot use Affordable Housing Fund money for the mobile hygiene unit but . . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: No, no, that's not what I . . . no, I was suggesting going under the homeless program, that the monies go into the homeless program.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I see.

VICE-CHAIR KING: And then that way if we can't get a mobile hygiene unit, we could use it for other purposes for the homeless.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification. Okay. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I . . . we've talked about the Family Life Center and possible expansion. I totally support that. And the other project I support that too for Catholic Charities. That's it.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Member Paltin and then Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm supportive. My only question on the Family Life Center expansion is that ceded lands?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Not that I know of but not that we can't find out. I'm not sure. But we can check.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And just clarifying that wouldn't be a reason that I'd oppose it. I'd just like to take the same sensitivities that we did for the ceded lands that were used in Lahaina.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Absolutely. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Hokama and then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you. I appreciate Housing Chair Kama's proposals. I like the mobile unit because I think it addresses something that we can possibly make a difference in the next fiscal year. So, I'm really thankful for this request. The other two, I'm in general support too but these are things that will take years to get done. And I'd just like to share 'cause I had my same thoughts like Mr. Molina and the construction sector. Lāna`i has just stopped an essential construction government project at the airport because of the COVID-19 factors. And so, I just share that with you that, you know, I don't know how much we can depend on the construction sector. I would just stop, like I said, an essential project on Lāna`i so I just ask that we reconsider those factors as we move the budget along. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Chair Lee and then Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm in full support of Member Kama's proposals. I'm pretty sure, Member Paltin, that that's not ceded land. That's where all the churches are located and have been for the last 60 years right across Foodland in Kahului. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Molina then Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair, yeah, I appreciate Member Kama's proposals. No questions at this time. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I'm supportive of the Catholic Charities especially given timelines that they've been able to put out affordable housing at affordable rates. Just clarification for the Deputy Director that it wouldn't be in this budget, it would be in the next budget?

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. MUNSELL: Oh, sorry. Thank you, thank you. Actually, thank you for the question. The way that the funding works is that we'll get information from the Finance Department to tell us how much funding is available. We would put out a request for proposals sometime in the summer – August or September, review those, and then they would be ready and evaluated by the time the HHFDC funding is . . . applications are due next year. So, that would be for next year's, next year's Affordable Housing Fund money, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. I guess I have one question for the Department regarding the building on Kane Street. So, would that 3 million need to be all together or could that be broken up into phases?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you for your question, Madam Chair. The answer is, we don't know. I've not spoken with Family Life Center about this project. So, I don't really have any details or facts about it. I recently spoke with Maude like recently meaning last week about the potential to expand shelter spaces in that building. And I understand that there's some issues with the plumbing, which prohibit people living in there as shelter space. So, because of the need for additional shelter units for people, we were promulgating that space. So, I was not aware that there's an intent to upgrade that facility. So, I will make sure that I check in with Maude and get more details so I can speak more informed about that. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. And then my second question is regarding the mobile hygiene unit funding. After no bids came in for the RFP after posting, did the Department reach out to those who would have potentially applied or put in a bid for the funding? Some of the information or feedback that I received was that the grant stipulations were one of the prohibitive factors in not putting in a bid for it.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, what we did was we tried to solicit whatever interest that we saw. So, we met several times with Maui Rescue Mission that operates a similar mobile hygiene van to see what their ability was to assume the operations for a second. We talked with not only Abel Garcia who is in charge of the program here but also someone whose name escapes me right at this moment. He's in a leadership role for that agency about what they would be able to do and what the County support could include. We were . . . after those discussions we were kind of hopeful that it could be accomplished but ultimately the agency decided that they weren't able to assume that, the additional burden of that service. So, we've also had conversations with the other homeless providers already existing and nobody felt, none of those agencies felt like they had the capacity to take on a mobile hygiene unit and operate it. But in terms of the grant requirements, every grantee who seeks money from the County and we go through the process of executing a grant, has to meet certain criteria and those are established by contract. And, you know, so there might be somebody with a great idea who has a

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

April 8, 2020

nonprofit but if they don't meet all the specifications of our County threshold for what it takes to become a grantee, then we cannot execute a grant with them. And that's not a Department sort of choice like we can just do it anyway. It's a requirement because all of our contracts go obviously to Corp. Counsel for their review and legality.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, that is true. But then one way to deal with it is to have an umbrella agency take care of all the paperwork and all the technical parts of a grant and charge a 10 percent fee and then handle, manage the grant for the grantee. So, you know, those kinds of arrangements can be made and have been made over the years.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, Council Chair Lee is exactly right. We have some agencies who do function as umbrellas for others. I'll give you an example. For when we talk to folks on Molokai to try and utilize the \$50,000 proviso for homeless services, we also did try to stir up some interest in an umbrella agency willing to assume responsibility for some of the community sort of . . . the embedded community sort of efforts that were going on and we just weren't able to overcome those administrative challenges in terms of getting an agency to agree to do that. But we did try, and we will continue to try.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Member Sugimura has two priority proposals. Member Sugimura? Four minutes. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, one is for Affordable Housing Fund. Department, it's for the \$1 million for the Wailuku Mission Grounds Housing Project, which is the big green empty lawn right in the back of Ka'ahumanu Church, Members. And it's for planning, design, professional services for the project and it is centrally located at the corner of Aupuni and Main Street. This is a 40-rental unit project for 60 to 80 percent AMI and it will be held in perpetuity, the rental units will be held in perpetuity. And the cost for each unit is estimated at 300,000 and the total cost is 12 million. The land is owned free and clear by Wailuku Union Church and they are partnering with Hoku Iwa LLC on O'ahu. A church-based development consultant as well as EAH, a nonprofit housing development and management organization. This will help fulfill the shortage of rentals for 40 affordable rental units to be held in perpetuity because the land is owned free and clear by the church. The other project that I or the other thing that I have is for the Affordable Housing Fund. I think we've been talking affordable housing rental program we've already kind of talked about it before is to add \$1.6 million to the Rental Housing Subsidy, which will bring the total from up to 3 million. It's, right now, at 1.4 in the Mayor's Proposed Budget. And that's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then I'll go Member Molina to see if since both Member Sugimura and Member Molina proposed an increase to the Affordable Rental Housing Program. Member Molina, if you would like to speak to your proposal simultaneously?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, sure, that's fine.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just the one. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. So, for now just on the Affordable Rental Housing Program proposal, mine?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. And I got two minutes for this one and we'll come back to the other one.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Yeah. Again, this is . . . my request is \$600,000 and last year the Council increased this line-item from 1 million to 1.4 million. And at my request, I was hoping to increase this amount last year to 2 million to better assist renters; but the Director, at the time, noted that their Department did not have the ability to administer the increase. However, during a recent pre-budget interview, the Deputy Director noted that the Department could have used the entire FY 2020 appropriation and could have used the additional funds. So, there exists a serious lack of affordable rental housing and we need to continue to expand various programs available to our families in need. And with the loss of jobs and revenue and shutdowns associated with COVID-19, families are having a serious reduction in income. So, affordable rental assistance will be in demand more than ever and, to me, we gotta up our game. The residential impacts of this virus could last for months beyond the cure of vaccine so, therefore, expansion of the rental programs will go a long way towards getting our families back on their feet. So, we need to be bold about this. And so, despite the potential loss in revenue to the County, we need to keep our focus on our families as well, you know. People are very important, and I know we sometimes get worried about money, but we have to be bold in these critical times. And if it's not 600,000 I can support Member Sugimura's proposal as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. So, Director, would you like to comment on the three proposals?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, last year I think, as Member Molina noted, the recommendation at some point during the budget deliberations was for \$2 million. At that point in the deliberations I checked with the grantee agencies and was told that an increase of the 400,000 was . . . would be used and would be appropriate for what they

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

April 8, 2020

saw as the need. And as we all have discussed this afternoon in previous meetings in the midst of this crisis, we anticipate that there will be a larger, more substantial need for rental assistance in our community. So, the Department doesn't have any objections to increasing the Rental Assistance Program allocation. I would note just to circle back around that our community is also expected to get an increase in Federal funding through HUD for both CDBG as well as for Emergency Solutions Grant, which would also potentially offer some relief to people who are struggling with grant and things like that. None of the programs that we are talking about right now is the same as the voucher program where somebody's rent would be paid, you know, a portion of it would be paid for a long time. This is truly a supplemental program and not meant to sustain people in housing for a long period of time if they have no . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wait, wait.

MAYOR VICTORINO (*speaking at press conference*): ...as I do every day at 4 o'clock, provide an update of COVID-19 issues.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KING: The press conference is going on.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Press conference. Press conference.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So you want to recess?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Recess, please.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. It's 4:00 and we still have Fire and Public Safety Department. Okay. All right, it's 4:01 on April 8th and we'll take a ten-minute recess. Okay. All right. The Economic Development and Budget Committee will reconvene at 4:10. The Committee is in recess.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . (*gavel*) . . .

RECESS: 4:01 p.m.

RECONVENE: 4:20 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . (*gavel*) . . . was receiving comments from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns Director Lori Tshako on Member Sugimura's two proposals and one of Member Molina's. Director?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, regarding Member Sugimura's priorities, I think the Department is familiar with the project of the Wailuku Union project. I was really encouraged by their recent partnership with EAH. I think that the expertise that's offered by EAH will help this project improve a lot. And in terms of the increase in funding to the Rental Assistance Program, I think that that money will be well used and that will be able to help few more people. I just want to make sure that there's an understanding though that, you know, these efforts through the Rental Assistance Program and through the Federal funds that we are expecting from Emergency Solutions Grant and CDBG are not the same level and length of time supporting rental payments as a Section 8 Voucher would be. So, once somebody applies for Section 8 Voucher and is deemed eligible and is awarded a Section 8 Voucher they can have that voucher for a long, long, long time. The assistance that we're talking about through the Rental Assistance Program is not intended to be a really long-term program. And so, I think one of the strategies that the Department will definitely have to look at is looking at the administrative requirements of that program and seeing if we need to work with the grantees, receive their feedback and potentially change the guidelines that we use to dictate the eligibility, the length of time for benefits, and other factuals like this so that we can better meet the community need. And so, the Department will start to do that right now and evaluate whether those changes are necessary right now or if we can wait until the beginning of the fiscal year.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: May I ask the Department a question from what they just said?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, Director, from what you just said, I guess first before the break you said you could use the money because of what's happening and now you're saying that you would need to change the requirements. So, it's something that you could possibly do in light of the additional federal dollars that you're just trying to figure out how to stretch that . . . ours and this federal dollars with the Care Act?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you for your question, Member Sugimura. I think you know what would be absolutely best for the community is if we take a 30,000-foot view of the whole funding situation. So, looking not only at what the program guidelines are right now for the Rental Assistance Program but also anticipating the benefits and the limitations of the funding that's coming from the Emergency Solutions Grant as well as the Community Development Block Grant funding, the extra funding from the feds and trying to piece those programs together so that we can cover the most people for the longest amount of time to address the need . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you. I have one question and then a comment. My question is who is EAH? Not familiar with that company. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I would ask the Department to reply.

VICE-CHAIR KING: That's the developer that you . . .

MS. TSUHAKE: So, thank you, Member King. EAH is a nonprofit housing developer. They were involved several years ago with developing Hale Ikena in Wailuku and they also manage properties. They've been managing Kahului Town Terrace for more than –

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: --a few years. They have different properties across O`ahu, and I think on the Big Island as well. So, very well known.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Hawai`i . . .

MS. TSUHAKE: I think President Kevin Carney has appeared before the Council before.

VICE-CHAIR KING: What does that EAH stand for?

MS. TSUHAKE: I don't know. I don't know what it stands for. The H probably stands for housing. Affordable, yeah, I don't know.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Maybe we could find out. But it's a Hawai`i company?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

MS. TSUHAKE: I think it's based in California, but they do operate in Hawai`i.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: EAH is Ecumenical Affordable Housing Corporation. They're a Mainland corporation but they've been on Maui for many, many years doing affordable housing projects.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you. Okay. So, I just wanted to say to the Department that if you could give us some information. You're talking about federal funding coming in and it's really, it's actually good to hear that CDBG is not dead because I think we had heard earlier that the President was cutting that program. So, it sounds like it's back again and maybe due to this COVID situation. But I'm just wondering if by the time we

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

April 8, 2020

get to decision week if we could get some comments from you on what is a reasonable level of funding somewhere between Mr. Molina's 600,000 and Ms. Sugimura's 1.6 million in light of, you know, in light of what kind of federal funding is coming in and in light of what you think you'd be able to actually expend in this next fiscal year. So, could we get that recommendation from you? 'Cause I think we're going to need more affordable rental housing assistance but I'd like to see how much is coming in from the federal government and then I'd also like to get from your Department how much you think you can spend. And then the other comment I have, Chair, is I'm a little worried that we're going to be adding to the Affordable Housing Fund but also provisoing everything in there. So, I think we have to be careful to leave room for what projects actually are ready as they become ready and let the Department make some of those decisions because I just want to make sure we're not putting our own pet projects in there and then filling up the whole Affordable Housing Fund before we get started with this next fiscal year. So, I just have some of those concerns and we can discuss further and maybe the Department has some. I'm glad that the Department seems to know about these projects we are talking about already. But I just wonder if you have comments about whether you believe they'll be ready to disperse this funding this year.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you for the question. We actually are very familiar with the Wailuku project because they've applied for affordable housing funds in the past. In fact, they have applied this past year but when we completed our evaluation, they weren't quite ready. And part of readiness has to do with whether they got their funding in line. So, you know, I'm hoping that you're not going to proviso funds because we really do want to have projects that are on the cusp. We've met with the Wailuku Project a couple of times to talk about what you need to do. The fact that they're partnering with EAH is massive for us because EAH knows what they're doing. And so, that gives me hope that they will be ready soon.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. But you'll tell us if we put a proviso in there and you think it's far off from being ready for this next fiscal year. You know, I hope you feel free to tell us so that we don't encumber monies that you could be using on something else that is shovel ready, you know. I trust you, Ms. Munsell.

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah, well, and . . . thank you. I appreciate that. You know, like I said, you know, projects that apply may actually go through a very specific evaluation on, you know, whether we think that they're going to move forward because the whole idea is to put shovels in the ground and people in houses. And so --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Right.

MS. MUNSELL: --you know, I would hate to find out that the Catholic Charities project isn't ready for another two years. We could have used that money for something else. I think Catholic Charities is a good project, and I think the Wailuku Union project has got a lot of really good possibilities. But if they're not yet ready, I don't want to put the money aside and keep 'em on hold. I want to do that two years from now so that we're, you know, moving projects.

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: Right, okay.

MS. MUNSELL: So, I appreciate you guys. Yeah, thank you for trusting us.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah. Thank you, yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I just want to say, thank you, Ms. Munsell, for what you just told us and that's good advice for us. And so, I'm hopeful that the Council and the Department is going to be working a lot more closer together and that we're going to be more in sync now that we're all kind of seem to be on the same page and the same place. So, I'm very hopeful for what's about to come within the next couple of weeks. So, thank you very much. That's all, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay, Member Sugimura and then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No more questions. I'm fine.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just wondering, you know, sometimes being a proviso in the budget is a signal to other funders that a project funding match is real. Any comment to that? For Ms. Munsell.

MS. MUNSELL: Part of the reason that we tried to get our projects in front of Council earlier is because we're trying to get in sync with HHFDC, for instance. So, when projects apply for funds through the State, if they've got local support, they get extra points. And the reason we've been successful on a number of our larger projects recently and brought in all of this funding is because we're able to at least spend a conditional commitment to a letter to our developers. And when they submit their application to HHFDC they get extra points for that. They increase their chances of gaining funding. And what we are continually struggling with and what you guys could help us with is hearing our projects and so that by the end of this budget period you can actually say, yes, indeed, these projects can roll forward because and then we've got that commitment. That gives the State a lot more confidence that they want to invest on Maui rather than put their money, you know, in another project somewhere else. So, last year, was really painful for us and we really struggled to hold on to some of our State funding because of how long it took some of the projects to actually get approved. So, we're hoping that by working together we can get those projects heard in this budget cycle and done before the end of June, and so we can get those grants rolled out and get those projects started in construction. Thanks. Thank you very much.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just wondering which Committee like the Affordable Housing Committee you're talking about or the Planning Committee [sic] or Budget Committee [sic]?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Member Paltin. I believe Budget Director is here maybe I'll defer to her. Where does the affordable housing, which Committee does the affordable housing . . .

MS. MUNSELL: Oh, I got it right here.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Oh. Chair? The affordable housing planned projects got transmitted and I think it went to the Affordable Housing Committee for your review on the individual projects. What we did include in this Fiscal Year '21 Budget is the appropriations under the Affordable Housing Fund of the projects that have been submitted for review.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. We want to help; I just not sure how.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Hokama and then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I want to thank Ms. Kama, Ms. Sugimura and Mr. Molina. I think all the requests have merit, Chair. And, for me, I'm going to, again, just say I'm going to hold back and take a more high altitude perspective because I still know Police and Fire is going to come. And as first responders, I want to make sure that we have still yet sufficient cash, resources to address some of their particular needs as well. So, I appreciate all these proposals and I'm open to all of it until we know our limitations on what we can provide. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Chair Lee and then Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, I am open too, like Mr. Hokama, but I also am hoping that both sides can come to, you know, moving in the same direction, the Administration and the Council; because if we start going our separate ways, we're not going to get anything done. So, the sooner we can come to some kind of agreement or some kind of common ground, I think, the better. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, Madam Chair, no I appreciate everybody's proposals and I'll save my questions for the deliberative phase when we get there. Thank you.

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

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I, too, am open to working with the Department. I also believe that, you know, if we can stagger our projects so that it's economically good for the County, I'm in favor of that. So, I'm open to working with the Department. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. My questions were answered so we have one more proposal from Member Molina, one from Member Sinenci, and three from me. Okay, Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. My proposal is to increase the Mayor's 5 percent proposal for the Affordable Housing Fund another 1 percent. The additional 1 percent will add roughly four and a half million to the Mayor's proposal, which I appreciate as well and the Administration. And this is nothing new for the Council because last year the Council increased the Mayor's proposed appropriation from 3 percent to 4 percent last year. So, I believe in taking this year with the . . . even with the COVID-19 issue a step further. And I realize 23 million which is what the amount would be with the 6 percent is a lot of money in very lean times. But I see this increase very important because of the loss of jobs and serious reduction in individual income. Call it an economic stimulus if you will. Maybe long term. Affordable housing demand will be increased more than ever before because of this pandemic and because people have lost income and the ability to help making housing affordable in great demand, we definitely need to up the ante here. And because we've got the desire, or the Administration has the desire to purchase nearly 500 acres of land for potential affordable housing projects the increase for this fund is . . . becomes imperative. And if this land acquisition becomes a reality, it's important that we have the revenue to assist in reducing cost to potential developers for planning, design, infrastructure and construction. And the acquisition and availability of land has always been a significant deterrent in providing affordable housing. So, if land is secured in making site improvements and lessen other costs, this will greatly assist in building the affordable housing project that we all want. And I think with the proposals from Members Lee, Sugimura, and Kama, I think adding this 1 percent will provide room for these opportunities. So, that is where I'm coming from at this time. And, yes, there have been projects that have been stopped because of the COVID-19 but that was a choice made by the State. But right up here in Pukalani, I see the project up in Kulamalu still moving forward. I mean they're building I guess retail and I see the construction workers they're doing their part as far as social distancing. So, maybe using the term of construction industry was not the right word, maybe building industry but it's still a very important part of our economy and, you know, if that dies, then I think everything will slow down; but we have to do what we can to keep building moving forth. I think this is the first time I ever went beyond the bell, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. Director, would you like to comment on Member Molina's proposal?

MS. TSUHAKO: Not at this time, Madam Chair. I think we need to confer with the Budget Director and the Mayor and expect to do that in the next few days. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Tsuhako. Okay. Members, we'll start with Member Sinenci and then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Again, I like that these projects could potentially be stimulus projects, economically to stimulate the economy. Again, I'm open to maybe implementing five- to ten-year construction plan that we can look at the different projects and maybe stagger, you know, larger projects with the smaller projects just have . . . because we do have so much construction workers on the island and maybe just look at local, state, and federal projects that are in the queue. So, again, just some strategic planning with a lot of our affordable housing projects. That's all, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Chair Lee and then Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I pretty much agree with all of my colleagues. I am concerned about infrastructure. I know all of these projects would never go out the same time because we have constraints like water, sewer treatment and so forth. So, all of these other things need to be addressed as well as the housing projects. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Again, I'm open to everybody's proposals because it shows that we've got different perspectives. Just so maybe Members can put into context how I'm approaching it. I am planning for an 18-month minimum impact from the COVID virus for this County. Eighteen months. And so, all of my fiscal adjustments have been based on what I say this County going through for the next 18 months, which would take you to the following fiscal year, Chair. And so, that is my concern in how I'm approaching this virus because I haven't made too many bad financial forecasts for this County over 20 years and I prefer to plan accordingly for this 18-month impact to this County. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Okay. Member Paltin and then Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. No comment.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I look forward to hearing from the Department and as well as I appreciate the discussion from the other Members. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I kind of had to agree with Member Hokama. I think that this is going to last longer than we anticipate. Or even that maybe we're

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

April 8, 2020

planning for in terms of rent and mortgage and food and shelter that during the 1918 pandemic, flu pandemic, the suffering that the people went through was a whole year. It was horrible. It was awful. And I think we can learn some things from that. And one of the things that I think I want us to always remember is that what we have in the front of us is what we should be taking care of first and planning for that. So, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I just wanted to say that I think we need to balance everything out. I'm kind of for, you know, so we could see where we're at when we get to decision-making week. And we just put our names and our votes behind an Affordable Housing Plan. And I think we're trying to plan the whole thing out for them. And so, I kind of would like to, I'm with Mr. Franco, I'd like wait and see what the plan is before we put so much money into the Affordable Housing Fund and start planning everything out ourselves as a Council. I think that should be the Department's job. So, I just kind of want to, you know, wait and see where we're at, wait and see when they get to the point where they can comment on this. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay. Member Sinenci, your one priority proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. This morning we had Ms. Vasconcellos from the Hana Health Center speaking to her Hana Health Rehabilitation Support Center and she did email everybody her breakdown of her funding mechanisms. Ms. Vasconcellos has been a champion for our community as far as solidifying funds to renovate our 55-year old health center. And she's brought some . . . both preventative and other health programs to our community, including mental health programs. So, she's already solidified some partial funding for the project and is asking assistance from the County at this time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Director, comments on Member Sinenci's proposal? I'm sorry, Director, are you speaking?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Sorry, Madam Chair, I was distracted.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Comments on Member Sinenci's proposal.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you. I have not received any material from Ms. Vasconcellos, and I have not spoken with her at all about the request so I'm unable to comment at this moment.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay, Members, questions for Member Sinenci or the Department? Committee Vice-Chair King followed by Pro Tem Kama.

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I don't really, I don't have any additional questions. Just would like to hear from Housing, you know, from the Human Concerns Division [sic] on this. But --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, later then.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --I'm generally supportive of all the social services. I think those are really important right now. You know, I see the social services that we fund as part of the emergency response so, you know, that's generally where I'm going with this giving out short-term help that we give the communities. But I'll wait to hear from the Department.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I think . . . I don't have any questions or comments at this time. And we'll just . . . I'll wait too. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Same here. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I didn't really get a chance to read Ms. Vasconcellos' email yet but so no questions. Generally supportive.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, I support the needs of our rural communities like East Maui. So, the best we can support I'll be there. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I, too, am supportive of all of our nonprofits. However, I really would like to get a handle on all of the federal and state funds that will be coming down the pike soon. And I'm hoping that Director Tsuhako can give us a timetable of when she might be able to sort all of these grants and loans . . . loan programs coming down. I just saw on TV that Senator Schatz is announcing another \$10 million for Hawai'i for health services. So, let's get a handle on what other monies will become available to us soon and then we can make a, probably, a more informed decision. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I appreciate Mr. Sinenci's proposal. I think it's certainly a legitimate one. And when we get to the deliberative phase, I'll have some questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Molina. All right. So, mahalo . . .

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And then we'll make sure that the Department and Ms. Vasconcellos gets together . . . have that conversation. Appreciate everyone's support. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. So, I have three priority proposals under this Department – (1) District and (2) Countywide. Yes. Okay. So, my first priority proposal is to provide funding for nonprofits . . . oh, sorry, let me set my alarm . . . for homeless food security. I agree with Member Paltin earlier that I would like to see more of this funding yield results. So, I would like to provide other nonprofits who never received County funding an opportunity to receive County funding, which is why I try to narrow it down a little more because a lot of times a lot of the nonprofits that get funding every year are the ones that get the funding and new nonprofits, you know, they generally are those that I have been talking with that have really stepped up to service our community during this crisis, you know, just never received funding. So, I'd like to see, you know, our nonprofits that are doing a lot of really good work receive County funding and support. Second, is for \$50,000 grant for Molokai. So, this is my district priority and it's to fund a master plan for the Molokai Homeless Management. So, as far as I know, there's no plan for the County for our growing houseless population. And since our houseless population on Molokai is relatively small, I think, maybe, you know, we can kind of help to, you know, pave the way or be a model since our population is small. And then, \$50,000 for Suicide Prevention Program - Countywide. Okay. Okay, Director, would you like to provide comments on the three proposals?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just got a quick question 'cause I think I missed this. For the first priority of food security for the homeless, was there a amount of funding attached to that priority?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: \$50,000.

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. TSUHAKE: And if you could, aside from just, you know, making offerings to nonprofits who may be new to County funding, was there any other specific parameters that you wanted that program to have?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I guess we could talk story a little bit more about what this would look like. I just . . .

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you. I would appreciate that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Absolutely, yeah. So, this proposal is, you know, to address some of the immediate needs and basic needs which, you know, is food. We cannot see our community starving to death, it's not right.

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. In terms of a master planning for homeless, I think, you know, the nomenclature that's more familiar to me is doing a needs assessment and maybe getting some feedback in terms of some strategies that we could employ given the unique characteristics of Molokai and the community. And maybe the unique characteristics of some of the people that we see who are unsheltered and trying to find the entity that could provide us that kind of a synthesized response and recommendation. And then the third one, for your third priority can you just elaborate a little bit more on that for me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Suicide Prevention Program is a grant to assist those that are doing suicide prevention.

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. Okay. Got it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have people on Molokai, for example, that they have . . . they pay out of pocket for, you know, they have their own phone, personal cell phone number as a 24-hour hotline. They, you know, use their own vehicle and gas to drive and sit with people who are on the verge of taking their lives. And all of this comes out of their own pocket and I would like to be able to support those in our community that are doing this work more.

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. No further comment.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Mahalo. Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King and then we'll go with Member . . . Pro Tem Kama, I think, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you. You know, I support all your programs. The only things I don't know that there's enough money in it. I would like to see more . . . I think you picked for the food security programs I think you picked three really excellent programs that have a little funding in the past. But I would think that they might each need \$50,000 so that's my only comment on that one. But thank you so much for doing that, Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, I really appreciate those especially as one of the founders of Share Your Mana. And the Suicide Prevention Program I support that. The only question I have is on the master plan for homeless management however they want to word it. But this is in our current budget and nothing got done on it. Did anything happen on it with this current funding?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So, okay, so, first, yeah, I agree with your comments on the homeless food security and the three examples were Chilis on Wheels, Share Your Mana, Common Ground Collective because those are three examples that are, you know, providing food to our, you know, growing displaced families and chronic houseless, and I'm open to increasing that. For the plan, the Houseless Management Plan, that was actually something that Chair Lee had put into the budget for the FY '20 Budget and it was just a grant. There wasn't any . . . it wasn't limited to anything specific. And, yeah, no, --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Didn't happen?

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --no one jumped on that. Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, okay. Okay, so that didn't get, that actually didn't get dispersed, that money?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Yeah, I'm totally supportive. I think, you know, like I said, all the nonprofits and especially the social services ones I think are what can be really important in the short term so I just think you might need . . . I'd like to see more money in that food security pot for . . . even if we limited it to the three listed here, I think they wouldn't need \$50,000 a piece so . . . my main comment.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Pro Tem Kama and then Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, I really like your three proposals. I just have some concerns about, you know, first-time applicants to our County grant system is a reimbursement system where they would have to spend it, get reimbursed, file, and then they get it. So, I'm just concerned that they may not have the upfront dollars to begin that, so I just want to know how do we handle that if they . . . if some of our nonprofits especially, well, I'm looking at only three, but it could be potentially more but how could they apply for a grant if they don't have the start-up monies to even begin that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But other than that, I support it. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So, I know OED has that policy. I don't know if DHHC has that policy and if DHHC would be willing to amend that policy. Director?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Kama. Thank you, Madam Chair. The Department of Housing and Human Concerns does offer a first quarter payment shortly after the contract is executed. So, agencies will have start-up money, you know, in order to operate their programs. And, thereafter, their quarterly reports are tied in with quarterly payments. Ten percent is withheld for the closing of the contract at the end of the fiscal year to ensure that all of the administrative requirements have been met. So, I feel fairly confident to tell Member Kama and other Members that the manner in which the Department administers that funding will unnecessarily penalize an agency that doesn't have a funding to begin with.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department. I'm done, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. So, a little bit different policy than OED grants. Okay. Member Sugimura and then Member Paltin.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I liked us looking at Molokai again for the suicide. I remember last year this came up when we were doing the district meetings. So, I'll just wait for the deliberations but thank you for putting this out again. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Member Paltin and then Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm supportive. My question is with the Suicide Prevention Program and it's for the Department. While I'm super grateful for the folks and I totally believe in the things that they're doing, is the Department restricted to give the folks that are doing the work money based on qualifications or background, would they need to have qualifications or background in this work or would their experience in being on the job right now satisfy that they could receive this type of funding?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you for your question, Member Paltin. You know, the Department is trying, I'm trying very hard to move all of our grant . . . our grant requirements to include programs that are evidence-based practices. So, and that means that they've been vetted by SAMHSA and that they've been researched and proven to be effective. In my mind, if we're going to use taxpayer's money to pay for services, we want to make sure that those services can be shown to be effective, right. So, my long-term goal for the Department is to transition all of our grant funding and ensure that the programs that are being implemented are evidence-based. That being said, it's not going to be an easy transition. I don't know off the top of my mind that there are evidence-based practices for suicide prevention. And I don't know that any provider here and now is doing them. But that is my wish that we can pay for evidence-based practices and show that what we're doing is actually paying dividends. The qualifications for who implements the program I think will need to be worked out. In the current year budget, we're paying for a suicide study that's being led by Dr. Triolo at Department of Health. And, hopefully, in another year that that study will be available to us and we can dictate some of what kind of intervention tactic after that, based on data. So, I cannot say for certain what qualifications would need to be held by the people implementing this but I'm hopeful that we would have a standard that says, you know, we need to have a trained educated mental health people or a combination of people who've had peer experiences with suicide prevention so that there's some degree of credibility that's attached to the work. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And just to follow-up. If it is the case where they need to have certain training perhaps this money can be used to provide that training for the folks that are currently doing the work. And in a way, that protects them as well so that they don't take the burden on themselves if, ultimately, they are not successful in preventing a suicide.

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Member Paltin, I agree. And budgets can be fashioned to allow agencies that would receive this funding, in particular, to set aside money for training. So, that's an allowable cost in our County grants. So, I don't see that as an impossible thing, and probably a very good suggestion for the sustainability of the program itself. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Member Hokama and then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. First, I just want to thank you. I appreciate you bringing up other components that we need to deal with because, again, the exasperation of the virus. And so, my first question to the Department is, you know, I like what the Chair said about potential new nonprofits that might be proposing new programs or new options to address some of our community concerned areas whether it's the homeless, the suicides, and what not. So, I would say if the proposal or the new idea has shown merit, are you folks' objective . . . would you object, I should say, to go to an existing nonprofit that the County is currently contracted with to run up the monies for this specific, I would say, subcontractor to make it happen sooner than later? Because this is how I'm trying to approach Lānaʻi for some of our emergency funding is by going through an existing County contracted not nonprofit to do our programs so they don't have to go through this whole government registration of compliance, are you qualified, do you have your nonprofit status and everything else. Is this something the Department is open to or has experienced in the past?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Hokama. The answer is yes.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Can be done, right?

MS. TSUHAKE: Can be done.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Great, great, great. The second thing, and I gotta tell you now, I'm very interested because I've been reading a lot because of my committee's chairmanship. So, I agree . . . I would have no problem supporting sufficient monies to address the other potential health impacts on the human concerns from the virus that includes the suicides. I just read the report that for the U.S. men's rate has been exasperated versus women over the last ten years and we've increased over 10 percent basically of suicide numbers in our country, so I am very concerned. And then the other component that I agree with my Chairman that, you know, one thing we haven't talked about is that our residents currently have a projection that 30 percent of our community has low antibody counts because of either non-participation in vaccinations, annual flu shots, fluoridation or immunization. So, for me, this is a red flag that up to 30 percent of those that have low antibodies are more prevalent to get the virus. Is this something that you guys have a program that could . . . maybe help with education and get better compliance?

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

April 8, 2020

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Hokama. I wasn't aware of the statistics that you quoted, and I frankly not thought about a program to address it. I think the expertise lies with the Department of Health in terms of the public health aspect of that issue. But I think if our partners at Department of Health had a particular program that required the County's participation or assistance, I'm sure that we would be happy to provide them with whatever data we have. I think recently the Department responded to a follow-up request from the Healthy Families and Communities Committee about the rate of immunization and things like that. So, we do have some access to data that we could assist with and maybe help in the planning of implementation of the program. But the Department doesn't have a role right now in doing that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Department. And thank you, Chair, for your proposal.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, thank you for your proposal. I support you. I really believe that it's good to encourage new nonprofits to apply for County funds through the use of umbrella agencies. A lot of times, the new nonprofits have experience on the ground. They've been doing their volunteerism work for a couple of years not getting paid and though they have the experience but may not have the wherewithal with the grant writing and applying for a grant which is very understandable. But this is one way to encourage new and fresh eyes, you know, fresh eyes dealing with a lot of social problems. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair, very good proposals. No questions at this time. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Supportive of your proposals and appreciative you addressing the most dire needs of your community especially your most vulnerable. So, my only question was that are these provisos within already budgeted items or are these increases in the budget, new items?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: New items.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, Members, those were all the priority proposals. Did I miss anyone? I think I got everything. Yeah, okay. Good. Okay, Members, that brings us to the end of the process that we've been following. And we have . . . okay, so I guess are there any last comments or questions before I thank the Department of Housing and Human Concerns for joining us today? Okay. Seeing

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

April 8, 2020

none. I'll thank Director Tsuhako and Deputy Director Munsell for joining us and all the staff that's been monitoring online. Thank you so much.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair and Members, very much for the opportunity to be with you today and answer your questions. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members, so we still have Fire and Public Safety who are waiting and ready to go. So, that DHHC is a really large Department and there were a lot of proposals so that took about four and a half hours. Sorry, let me mute whoever that is. Okay, okay. So, I would love for us to stay on track for our schedule. I would really love to also be able to give you Good Friday off without having a meeting. So, here's an idea for Members to consider, a compromise. No reading of the written questions. We . . . I give each Member ten minutes to choose which questions if they would like to choose from their written responses, written correspondence or if you have other questions, and so each Member will have ten minutes and that is 90 minutes, ten minutes each, 90 minutes – hour and a half. There is one priority proposal from Member Molina and that will take us . . .so if we start at 5:30, that will take us to 7 o'clock.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any objections to that compromise? And I will send the written . . . the questions that were submitted via written correspondence to the Department to see if we can get answers on those. Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, what you're asking us to do is to go back and we . . . so what you're telling us is that when we come back we'll have ten minutes to decide what our questions are going to be and that's all the time we have that we can get through all the business of the day but we all have ten minutes to spend.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. I got it. Let's do it. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other questions?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, so are we going to take a short break before we bring Fire up?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It looks like that's the preference.

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair? Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We can take a 10-minute break because I don't have any questions for Fire.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: I don't . . . I don't have any questions either for Fire.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Do you want to have them make opening remarks --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I have some.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --and then we could take a break? Since they're right there maybe they could just make some opening remarks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. How about we do this . . . we keep going, if you need to take a break you can step away as long as there's quorum, and we'll just like --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: That works.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --work right through it.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: That works.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, if you need to step away, go ahead. Just make sure that when you open the gallery view that there's at least five videos with someone in it.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, Alice already stepped away so she's seriously.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. So, we'll . . . okay, we're going to move forward then. No recess.

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, we have with us, that is, the Department of Fire and Public Safety our Fire Chief David Thyne and our Deputy Chief, no Assistant Chief. Hold on, let me look. Deputy Fire Chief Brad Ventura and I think that looks like maybe

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

April 8, 2020

Business Administrator Cindy Kagoshima. Okay, and we have Budget Director Michele Yoshimura with us as a resource as well. Okay, Chief Thyne, would you like to open us up with some opening remarks? Sorry, let's see . . . I'll unmute you, if I can. Okay. And it still says Housing and Human Concerns, so but we know that you're Fire and Public Safety.

MR. THYNE: Hi, good evening, everybody, early afternoon or late afternoon, I'm sorry. I know you've had a long day, so we'll try to be brief. I've heard of . . . I've watched on BlueJeans and Akaku a couple of the Departments come up and I echo everybody's concerns about the pandemic we're all dealing with. And we certainly did prioritize our budget and passed it on to the Mayor and he did so as well. And I know the proposed budget is in front of you but we also understand that we have to be flexible in this time. And so, we're awaiting your guidance as our leadership as well and we will work with you folks all to trim and adjust our budget accordingly. So, thank you, for this time and we'll be hoping to give you all the answers you need, if not, we'll follow-up with any transmittals you may need as well. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief Thyne. Okay. We'll start with Committee Vice-Chair King and then we'll go to Member Sinenci and work our way right.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you, Chair. I don't really have any questions but I'll just ask the first one that's on my list of questions from what everybody sent in because I think it's important if they have thought about recommendations for a 5 percent reduction of your budget . . . of your Departmental budget, if it comes down to needing that.

MR. THYNE: So, Chair and Councilmember King, should I just answer or do we do the protocol with asking to the Chair to be recognized or do I just answer the question? I'm sorry, I don't . . . I don't know how you want . . . folks want to do it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for asking, Chief Thyne. I'm sorry for not providing that instruction. Yes, so each Member will have ten minutes and please feel free to just respond directly to the Councilmember asking the question. And Member King, don't worry, I paused your time. Okay.

MR. THYNE: Okay. Thanks, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. So, yes, we have, Member King, we have gone through and we have a list in front of us and I don't think you want me to read it all but we can provide it if, you know, the Budget Director and the Mayor would like to provide it in writing. But, generally speaking, we went through an exercise of reducing our budget request to meet the 5 percent reduction.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. And then just . . .

MR. THYNE: So, you'd like me to go through a quick list or just . . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, no, you can just send it . . . you can just send it to us. I think that's fine. But I just want to make sure that that list doesn't hinder your ability to be, you know, the best first responders as, you know, I think we've been doing a great job and

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

April 8, 2020

we certainly wouldn't want you to cut anything that's essential to the, you know, the work that you're doing for us.

MR. THYNE: Absolutely. Generally speaking, just a quick summary. It is like, basically, it would have been our expansion request versus our, you know, continuing budget request so it'd be more expansion type things --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. THYNE: --as well as new programs we wanted to introduce.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you, Chief. And Chair, that's all the questions I have.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay. And Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, and following the lines of past departments, the Council has been asking about decreasing travel by 50 percent, specifically with this stay . . . shelter in place order. So, is that something that part of your 5 percent cuts as far as cutting your travel, Chief?

MR. THYNE: Yeah, Member Sinenci, the only thing that changed that was a little bit different for us, if you saw our Details, is one of the things we realized we have a working group at the State Fire Council level, which is made up of all of the fire chiefs in the different Counties, and we talked about different things we do, you know, at County levels and we found that one of the things that Maui County has traditionally done is the trips for fire trucks are written into the contract and, therefore, it's part of the contract for fire apparatus if we bought a new fire truck. And we found and was determined in consultation with our Budget Director that that's probably not the best way to do it for a few different reasons. And so, we actually took that out of our contracts for the new fire trucks, not the existing ones we have now because we couldn't stop that process but moving forward. So, what you'll see is what we do have travel, basically, related to fire apparatus if we end up getting awarded a fire apparatus, you know, and that was because it was taken out of the contract. So, our contract should theoretically be lower, hopefully, but then the cost related to travel for inspections and mechanics to go up and look and make sure it's being built right is now a part of the County budget as opposed to the fire truck contract.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Chief, for making that adjustment. Then so on Page 241 of the budget, the Fire Prevention Program intends to double the amount of inspections of establishments and facilities to 1,000. So, will your expansion positions be assisting with these inspections?

MR. THYNE: Yeah, that's correct, Member Sinenci. I'm trying to find the actual question 'cause I had a great feedback from our Fire Prevention Bureau Captain Paul Haake on the discrepancy and the amount of . . . so long story short, we have approximately 6,000 facilities that need to be inspected on a five-year cycle. If you do the math, that works

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

April 8, 2020

out to be 1,200 per year and that works out to be quite a few per actual inspector and they're basically understaffed in that area. And so, unfortunately, we can't keep up and that's why we put in for the additional inspectors. Our investigators another topic but I'll take stay focused on that. So, yes, so that's why we wanted to achieve that standard and to do that we would need those additional inspectors to keep up with the demand.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great. Thank you, Chief. And then on Page 247 of the budget, what accounts for the decline in services the Ocean Safety Program from \$109,800 in Fiscal Year 2020 to \$60,300 for this budget period?

MR. THYNE: Sorry, Member Sinenci, can you tell us the page number so we can check the Details real quick?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: 247 in the budget.

MR. THYNE: Yeah, I'm not seeing that. Can we possibly get that to you in writing so we can actually get exactly what that is for?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sure.

MR. THYNE: I apologize.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chief. And then, and then I just have one more question for the Department. So, for the additional nine Ocean Safety Officers II and one Ocean Safety Officer IV, can you explain where the need is for the additional nine Ocean Safety Officers? Page 250.

MR. THYNE: Yeah, Member Sinenci, I believe that's related to Makena, but we didn't request in this year's budget for any additional Ocean Safety Officer positions. They had no expansion requests.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. All right, thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Chief. And thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And good afternoon, Chief Thyne and Chief Ventura. I'll start off with the hardest question. I had a number of them but I'm going to start off with the hardest one – Program Budget, Page 221, Item [sic] Code 911008B, 6132, Professional Service - \$250,000 reduction. This is for the proposed studies that was previously appropriated by the Council last term to look at possible other sites for the long-awaited Haiku Fire Station. Chief, let me tell I have a tremendous amount of respect for you as our Chief and as a friend. Same here for Chief Ventura. The community has asked on numerous occasions to have alternative sites assessed in addition to the current site the County owns. And as we know, there's some liabilities at the current site, namely the high expense - roughly 3 million to put in a waterline. And this property was purchased years ago and there was a neighbor

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

April 8, 2020

that complained, I know that was an issue but that has apparently since been resolved because I think the infrastructure concern is the reason why this fire station hasn't been built. I'm not sure if that is the primary reason so which is why I pushed for a study to look for other sites. May I ask why you or maybe it's the Administration have refused to honor the community's request to do this study and the Council provided you with the funding, the resources? And this is something very rare when the Council provides a Department money and the Department refuses to spend it. And the Department, in my opinion, and the Administration should consider as many options as available to them regardless of the perceived concerns. Now, again, whose decision was it to not observe or carry out the request to the public to review alternative sites? And, Chief, why I'm so passionate about this and I've never shared this reason before, to me, having a fire station and a firefighter's role is more than just putting out fires. They provide CPR, they provide emergency medical aide before an ambulance arrives, and I'll share a personal experience. Years ago, when my dad was alive if it were not for that Makawao fire station, my father was having shortness of breath and symptoms of a heart attack. If it were not for the fire personnel, I remember Duckie Moniz, you remember him, he's retired now, Battalion Chief and his crew, came out there and gave my father the necessary oxygen and CPR needed to sustain his life. And, of course, a few minutes later the ambulance came. That was really important. It kept him alive. And I've never forgotten that, and I will always appreciate our brave men and women of the Department. So, please understand where I'm coming from, why not only myself but people out in Haiku, and in that area are so passionate. So, it's not just a matter of just putting out fires. It's having that first responder out there to respond to people having strokes, heart attacks, major injuries and so forth. So, this is why I've been such, I guess, a pest to get a fire station built in that area, which is the second largest growing community in our County. So, sorry, Chief, to take so long with that but please go ahead and respond to my questions.

MR. THYNE: Absolutely, Member Molina, and thank you for your passion. And we appreciate your support and this body's support through the years on funding for the station and the property. I'm, personally, a resident as you probably know for the past 30 years. I'm originally from Lahaina but I've been a resident in the Haiku area for 30 years. I own a home out there and I've also been on the, personally, on the Haiku project since 2001 when Chief Kaupalolo asked me to sit on the committee to help select a station and whatnot. We had numerous community meetings. We have some on the same . . . some of the same properties are being discussed now were discussed and evaluated through the first process that we went through. It was decided that the current property was the best location. Operationally being centralized in the Haiku area, and I believe that's still the case. So, when you and I actually, you're invited, went to the Haiku Community Association meeting I talked with several of the board members as well, and I explained that one of the first things we wanted to do was bring to this body as well as to the Mayor's Administration the cost of two developed . . . property because it was already purchased by the County. So, I felt I communicated that. We have communicated that, as you know, in meetings as well. We had a recent conference call where we communicated that again. We felt that it's best since the County purchased this property to bring a price tag, if you will, to develop a station on the current property. Operationally, that property is in the vicinity of a majority of the development that's

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

April 8, 2020

happened in Haiku. As you know, Haiku Town Acres, Pale Koa Farms as well as the development that was done behind Haiku School. So, reaching further out is definitely always a go to cover as much area as we can. You're 100 percent correct. But we made the decision to first develop or at least come up with an estimate on the cost to develop the current fire station property as it is, and then if it's determined by either the County Administration or yourselves as the Council then we can move on. But we felt that we should go ahead first and identify the property and the preliminary estimates we do have based on the current fire station location and the cost of building on the property there. So, that's what we decided to do, Member Molina. I appreciate your passion. I, too, am passionate for this project as well. We will look at other sites if that's determined as the best option. It's just working within the timeframe that we could and with the consultants that we could find, we felt that this was the first step that we wanted to take and that's what the decision that was made. So, I apologize if it doesn't meet to the expectations, but we will continue to move forward 'cause our goal is to develop a station in Haiku.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Chief. So, just on that note, so there was no way to assess both the County-owned property and other sites because, you know, I'm getting feedback from the community. They felt like their concerns for another site was ignored. So, again, the decision to not do the station. I mean if, to me, we bought that land back what I think maybe 2006, 2007 I think when Chief Kaupalolo was in charge, and I think Mayor Tavares she was the Mayor at the time. So, the question that was then, why wasn't the station built? It should have been built then if this property is so good, I guess, but then of course there's that issue with the \$3 million waterline cost and so forth. So, I'm just hoping that, you know, if this Council approves reappropriating the 250,000 that maybe you have a . . . you reconsider that because there's some out there who feels like this is being shoved down their throats that the . . . either the Fire Department or the Mayor is not listening to the citizens of Haiku. I leave it to you for any other comments, Chief.

MR. THYNE: Yeah, again, thank you, Member Molina. We appreciate your passion for this project. As we are, too, very passionate. We want a station in Haiku. What I can tell you is you're right there was a neighbor of the property that had contested because the design that was proposed for the station, which we've downscaled greatly. We want to have a country fire station. We want to have a station similarly to, if you will, to Kula Fire Station. That's what we want to do. So, we downscaled what was . . . to what was formerly proposed, which was a heliport and all kind of different things that we didn't feel was necessary. And so, therefore, that . . . then that neighbor said, you know what, okay, I'm pulling back all of my, as you know, but I'm sharing with the other Members, I actually decided again to move forward. But we have another proposal this year is to have the basically the architects and engineering portion of designing, going through the process in construction, administration, and bidding and all those things is our request for this year. If it's determined that we don't want to go forward on this site regardless of the County owning it and having gone through the different surveys and community meetings in the past to justify that location, then we will definitely go forward if the Council wants to approve another further assessment and then we can bring in a company to assess further other properties, if you will. But we did look at these

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

April 8, 2020

properties that are being proposed currently in the assessment that was done in 2006, 2005 timeframe as well. So, we did look at that, Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Chief. And I will be making a pitch later on to put back that \$250,000 appropriation for a study and, hopefully, you'll consider it and I don't know if I want to put you on the spot but I am going to make that pitch and I'm hopeful my colleagues will, you know, support me on that and the citizens of Haiku. So, Madam Chair, how much time do I have left? I think I've spent a lot of time on this question. I have just a couple more other questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Fifty-six seconds.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. So, well, Chief, are you open to supporting or taking advantage of the \$250,000 appropriation if this Council supports that?

MR. THYNE: Yes, absolutely. We'll look at any option to build a station in any location that the Council and the Mayor feels is appropriate. We will, Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Chief. Madam Chair, I have no other . . . my other questions can be responded to in writing. Thank you, again, Chief Thyne and Chief Ventura. Mahalo. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. And, hopefully, maybe those questions will be asked by one of the Members. Okay, so, next is Chair Lee. No questions, okay. And then Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chair, thank you. Again, I want to commend the Department. They've been going through a lot the last few years and I appreciate their response to the community in all manners. So, thank you very much, Chiefs. My question is more in the Operation side. And, you know, we talked about this, in general, before your Department, Chief, but you know, some of my concerns as I'm trying to make heads or tails out of your request under let's say Fire Rescue Operations Programs is some of the adjustments from this year to next year's budget carry for your positions and it befuddles me how a Firefighter I from this year to next year is going to have a \$19,000 increase for a Firefighter I. I don't know what's happening in the recruitment or how we designate steps and filling of the positions but, boy, you know for a Firefighter I \$19,000 over one year is a big jump 'cause I know what is the general pay for a full-time position for the whole year. So, can you explain to us all these interesting adjustments per individual that the Department has made? And, you know, just telling me it's across the board and by contract, you know, there's some other personnel decisions being made that is impacting the adjustments. That's my question, Chair.

MR. THYNE: Yeah, thank you, Member Hokama. So, we're looking at the budget. And not knowing a specific page and looking at the ones we found, that's more than likely related too because what this position . . . it says an Index Code but the position number is related to a specific position on a fire truck at a fire station. And what more than likely happened there was that a senior firefighter transferred in to, like let's just

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

April 8, 2020

hypothetically say Lānaʻi station when a junior firefighter was formerly working there. And so, he gets a higher rate of pay because of the step increases and those types of things. They're both an SR rated firefighter but because of seniority and 20 years in the service, they get incremental pay increases because of longevity and whatnot. Does that make sense? That's more than likely what it is. And if you can find a specific one, we can discuss it directly. But in looking at the Details, that's the reason why.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, and again, yeah, so just let me, again, one question for clarification for the whole Committee, Chief, are you telling me that we have firefighters who choose to stay in entry level Firefighter I position for 20 years? They don't want to move up to Firefighter II or III to be a driver or something else? I mean, it befuddles me that an employee would want to stay at Firefighter I.

MR. THYNE: Yeah, Member Hokama, yeah, it befuddles us sometimes too; but, yes, there are those folks whether they want to work in the district close to home or perhaps they just enjoy just being a firefighter. There's four, actually, that we can think of off the top of our head that have 18 plus years in the Department and are Firefighter Is.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay, Chief, I appreciate your response and I appreciate you knowing your personnel well so thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chief. For my questions, you know, a lot of people are out of work over here on the West Side and all around the island and a lot of them are supplementing their families . . . *(inaudible)* . . . from the ocean. We recently seen a near drowning at Flemings and so, thankful for our lifeguards to still be on the beaches. I was wondering if you can give us an update on the situation with Makena as that's a State beach and funded by State grants. Have you received any indication from the State that that grant would continue on into Fiscal Year '21?

MR. THYNE: Hi, Member Paltin, and thanks for your good words. Yeah, so we basically were told that they were suspending the fourth quarter but they were anticipating, you know, the new grant period coming along and resurrecting it, if you will, if not sooner. So, we do have our Makena guards that are being used in the positions that we were unable to hire so we were able to keep them working and they've become a valuable resource for us in filling positions that we were going through the process to hire and fill, but as you know everything got stopped because of the pandemic. And then we also have several of our Ocean Safety personnel that, you know, took leave and whatnot to take care of family or they needed to take off to take care of kids and whatnot. So, we were actually utilizing those guards and it's been a real benefit to our Ocean Safety Bureau to have them. And we're hoping and fairly optimistic that the grant will be proposed again then, you know, after this pandemic passes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Awesome. I was glad that worked out like that. Just wondering if during the new fiscal year if that grant doesn't come through, is it possible if those workers are all satisfactory to put them into the permanent positions for the

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

April 8, 2020

County as opposed to cutting them if the State doesn't come through with the funding as being if they're acceptable workers, they're experienced?

MR. THYNE: Yeah, thank you, Member Paltin. And I know you've been on the beach for a long time as well in the past, so yeah, I mean, we've always really focused on having the best employees we can. And certainly if we have people that have, you know, awesome performance evaluations, they're doing a great job, they end up getting a curve ball with this Makena thing we would definitely, you know, welcome them with open arms to stay on as County employees in the capacity of filling the positions in the various beaches. And, you know, obviously, with seniority and all those different things we'd have to work through that but we would definitely look forward to having them staying on with us if they choose to, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then being that they're ten of 'em – ten full-time and one half-time and the positions were for I think five full-time and ten half-time, would you need anything from us if that were the case to convert the ten half-times to full-times or could you do that administratively?

MR. THYNE: I think I'm getting a nod from the Budget Director and so we'd have to follow-up with you on those details if we wanted to plan ahead more, you know, in stone . . . set in stone, if you will. But from what I understand and working with Battalion Chief Geisea on those types of things we're able to utilize them. We wouldn't necessarily at this point have to ask for an expansion position. The one kind of outlier is the Captain out there at Makena has return rights to an OSO II position and so that's one that we haven't been able to work . . . well we're working through, but we'll keep in touch as far as that and transmit anything we may need on request-wise to the, you know, via the Mayor's Office to you folks if we need to. But thanks for that question. We appreciate it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then just wondering if the Training Lieutenant position has been filled and, if not, would that be an option for the Makena Captain?

MR. THYNE: Thanks, again, Member Paltin. Yes, we did fill it. Actually was, I believe, one of the Lieutenants or OSO IIs from Makena, I believe, John Sikes, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, awesome.

MR. THYNE: Well we don't want to mention names but yeah, we're filled.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah, he's a good guy. Right on. Thanks. No questions, unless Ms. Yoshimura had something to add.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice seeing you, Chiefs. And I just wanted to, first of all, thank you for helping us Upcountry. We have the concern about the fires that have, you know, we've seen over the last year. And thank you for helping our

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

April 8, 2020

residents. I did get a request from Kula Community Association and Pukalani about being concerned about fires. And maybe we can just talk later. It's really not for this meeting unless if you need some kind of budget. I didn't think so. But the one thing that I wanted to bring up and then I'll relinquish this . . . this moment is that to prepare for the coronavirus and the need for us to keep our cash, and when I looked at your CIP projects and this is something maybe you can look at is that you have three projects that are basically you're using cash for it or General Funds. And so, I wondered if you might be talked to the Finance Director or the Budget Director maybe look at it and maybe put it in for bond funding. It's the Makawao Fire Station renovation addition, Hoolehua Fire Station renovation addition, and the Haiku Fire Station. So, those three are slated for Fiscal Year 2021. That's a future discussion and that's all I have, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chief, for being here so late in the evening. I'm sure you'd like to go home and eat dinner since we already are at home. But real quick . . . I just wanted to know, do you have a backup plan should any of your stations have to be closed down because of the COVID-19?

MR. THYNE: Thank you, Member Kama, and good evening. Yes, we do. As a matter of fact, we had to basically decontaminate one of our fire stations over the weekend. We have been working with consultants as well as our HAZMAT crews and our Health and Safety Bureau. We developed a plan and to systematically decontaminate our fire station facilities. We also have a maintenance plan. Three times a day our firefighters go through and do cleaning as well. So, we have a couple of different things that we're working on. And we also have, you know, preventative measures with, you know, social distancing. We've separated our crews at Kahului station, our biggest station, things of that nature. We have a lot of enhanced PPE; we have face shields. We have a lot of different protocols in place. And just before we . . . while we were waiting in the lobby, we got a call from the Deputy Fire Chief, oh, excuse me, Police Chief and we're going to get testing of some of our firefighters that was scheduled to go tomorrow but is ongoing right now at Kahului station. So, you know, we're exhausting all angles that we can to make sure our firefighters are prepared. We have a 30-page document. We kind of collected all of the information from the Mayor, the CDC, specific to our firefighters and we're distributing that to them by the end of this week or actually by tomorrow. It's in final draft form so we're doing all we can to keep them aware as well as our Ocean Safety Officers, our Battalion Chief on that side. BCDC has been getting them a ton of information as well as it comes out to make sure they're looped in as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, Chief, can you at least walk me through, how do your Ocean Safety Officers practice social distancing if they're having to do a rescue?

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

April 8, 2020

MR. THYNE: Well, that unfortunately can't occur other than the fact that, you know, typically, as Member Paltin knows 'cause she's done it probably hundreds if not more times, when we have an ocean rescue typically it's a rescue water craft operator and what we call a grabber or somebody on the sled that basically rescues the patient out of the water, if you will, the victim. You know, fortunately, you know, with the exception of a couple here and there with the decreased amount of people that are frequenting the ocean and for the most part they're locals now as opposed to that ratio of more tourists than locals kind of concept that typically occurs. And so our locals are typically more familiar with the conditions and the watch-outs and those types of things so we're getting . . . we're still getting rescues but we're getting a lot less right now. So, you know, we can't really necessarily social distance, but by the same time we take all the precautions we can with sanitizing facilities and those types of things and distance when we can. But even riding in the fire truck you can kind of, you know, kind of look at that and say, it's hard to social distance in a fire truck. So, you know, we do what we can when we can, and we just hope for the best and that's basically where we're at.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay. I think it's my turn, yeah. Okay. Aloha, Chief. I first wanted to thank you for . . . I saw the Mayor's press release and I wanted to thank you for ensuring that all your firefighters and everyone in the Department were able to get screened and tested for the coronavirus. I have four questions. The first question is . . . could be found on the list of questions that was transmitted via written correspondence. It's question 31 and it's on, in the Program Budget on Page 234, there's an increase of about \$2.2 million in Machinery & Equipment and it's a change percent of 594.6 percent, and I know it's spread out through the different districts but would you mind sharing like what some of the machinery and equipment is?

MR. THYNE: Yeah, thank you, Chair. So, it is spread out amongst the different programs primarily just in summary there was some air conditioning units in our Admin. Program and new refrigerators and ice machines. The ice machines were, you know, for the districts that didn't currently have ice machines in the fire station facilities for rehabilitation, you know, and other needs there. The air conditioning units basically the EPA is getting rid of a refrigerant called R22 refrigerant due to I guess concerns with ozone, or something related to that. So, there are some units that we have that are going to have to be phased out and you know how much . . . how valuable air conditioning is in Hawai'i, yeah. And then the refrigerators much . . . unlike a lot of our Departments, we live in, work out of our stations so having a refrigerator for food and all of that. So, kind of moving on, the SCBA harnesses and cylinders are related . . . or another related equipment that's about 260,000 there as well as 185,000 for structural firefighting ensemble. And those are all PPE as we call it and that is to basically outfit our personnel with the requisite amount of gear that they need. Then the big items I guess to just . . . I can summarize the rest if you'd like, but the big items are two fire trucks – one for Hana and one for Paia. Those are about \$1.1 million apiece and so those would be the big-ticket items that would drive that up, majority of the cost there. So, you know, just a footnote is that the Council had a performance audit done by a

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

April 8, 2020

third party consultant, Citygate, years ago, couple years ago and they estimated that or recommended that our equipment costs for fire trucks be awarded at \$2.5 million annually if the Council could, you know, could afford it to keep up with our, you know, replacement plan for our vehicles and have reliefs for, you know, incident response as needed. So, if there's any follow-up I can give you specifics beyond that, but I think that's the bulk of it, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that explanation especially for the public who may go through the budget and see that sharp increase and wonder what that . . . what the details of that is. Okay. So, next question is, regarding the \$30,000 and that's in the Budget Details, Page 7-13, for Safety Supplies, \$30,000 – how many additional personnel will be outfitted for that amount?

MR. THYNE: You remember the question number? I'm sorry I'm dealing with, you know, several pages. I know I wrote it down in my notes over here, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. One moment. I have to look first. I guess in the meantime while I look for what question number that is, would you mind explaining what the renovations to the Hoolehua Fire Station are?

MR. THYNE: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's an apparatus bay - design and construction of an apparatus bay including storage and maintenance workspace.

MR. THYNE: Yeah, thank you, Chair. That's related to . . . for Hoolehua to answer that second question, I guess. I found the first one, by the way, but the second question that's for a garage addition, so, as you know, I know that's your island they basically shoehorn their truck into that small little garage that's, you know, at basically the roadside of the station, yeah. So, and then there's other equipment that either is kinda, you know, under awnings or whatever have you so we wanted to get a . . . much like Makawao the project proposed there, is to have an actual garage that's fit for what it needs to be fit for that big fire truck that they have. And so, we're working with an architect to design a actual garage that they should have already had and, you know, make it a better area for those and safer for the firefighters to work there. And then the first question was related to the \$30,000 for personal protective equipment that's related to our wildland primarily, our wildland fire equipment. So, that would be, you know, the wildland jacket, pants, gloves, helmet, goggles and what we call a hot shield which is basically like a, you know, a glorified fire protective handkerchief to protect your airway. And this money, funding, I'm sorry, would outfit approximately 50 firefighters. And also, would be issued to our upcoming recruit class that we've currently suspended for now that we anticipate outfitting in the near future.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief. Okay. And then my last question is a follow-up to Member Sugimura's question that she asked for all the CIPs, including the Hoolehua Fire Station renovation. Would those . . . there's like three CIPs

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

April 8, 2020

that . . . would they qualify for bond funding and, if so, what would the impact on that be or would that be on your Department?

MR. THYNE: So, I believe you're asking if it qualifies for bond funding. I turn to the Budget Director and she's going to look into that for sure. That's what she's kind of nodding at me from the back here in the corner so we'll definitely look at that for sure. And we certainly understand, you know, Chair, just what I tried to say in the opening, we understand that these trucks don't get funded or the, you know, the station projects don't get funded because of the financial impacts due to COVID. We totally understand. I mean, we will, you know, plead with anybody that will listen to us to make sure that we can continue our operations at a certain level, but we understand if we have to, you know, move a fire truck back another year or a project back another year and we're more than willing to do that. But we will work with you and the Mayor to find that, you know, _____ where we can all operate and function at the highest level we can, but yet tighten up the belt if we need to.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief. Those are all my questions. Okay. I'll stop my timer before it goes off. Okay. Okay, Members, Member Molina had one priority proposal. Member Molina, are you ready?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you very much, Madam Chair, not much else to say after my Q & A session with the Chief as you guys know I'm looking at reinstating that \$250,000 appropriation for a study to look at alternative sites for a future Haiku Fire Station. And, again, a lot was said in our discussion and just simply put the study will help provide a more detailed look at other potential sites and if it does prove to be more feasible then the property that we currently own, County could consider maybe a land exchange or possibly sell the property. But the bottom line, it gives the Department and the community the opportunity to look at a site that will, at least done by a study, that could be much more feasible cost-wise for the community. And I'm in agreement with the Chief, we just need a country-size fire station. We don't need one the size of Kahului or Wailea and, you know, so I'm just hoping for the support again from the Members. And, Members, thank you for your prior support last budget session so I'm hoping that you can again support this appropriation on behalf of the people of Haiku. And, mahalo to the Chief for at least making a verbal commitment at this point if those funds are appropriated for a study. Thank you. That's my spiel.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay, I'll go to Committee Vice-Chair King and then Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I don't really have any questions. I think the exchange that Councilmember Molina had with the Fire Chief was informative and just like everything else kind of have to balance everything that has to do with expansion now when we get to that during decision-making point, but I understand the need. This project has been kicking around for a long time and it was one of the things that was still in limbo when . . . I mean when I first got on the Council. So, I understand the urgency on the part of Councilmember Molina.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Member Sinenci and then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And I appreciate Member Molina's . . . his reasons for having a fire station out in Haiku. So, I really appreciate that and spot on with that being the larger increasing communities on Maui County. So, my only question to the Chief was, have they already looked at alternative or considered looking at alternative sites?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief?

MR. THYNE: Yeah, thank you. And thank you, Member Sinenci. We did. We did a pretty exhaustive study, internally though we didn't, I think what Member Molina is looking forward to satisfy the community questions and concerns is actually bringing in a consultant to look at, you know, potential locations and identify what maybe EAs need to be done or maybe a better location for call volumes and things like that. And there are consultants out there. I never worked with any of them, but the previous study we did we did look at seven sites. One of them is or two of them are ones that are being proposed by community members now and so we will be open to bringing somebody else in but we have looked at alternative sites when we went through it the first time.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you, Chief, for that historical perspective. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Chair Lee and then Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I support Member Molina and I don't have any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: As I supported Mr. Molina in 2001 for the other acquisition, I'm supportive of his request this year.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Okay. Member Paltin and Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I wasn't super familiar with the whole history like everyone else but just was wondering for Member Molina, did he have an alternative site that he had as a priority or is it just you don't like the one that is, is not acceptable because of the \$3.5 million waterline?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair, if I may respond to Member Paltin. No, you know, I'm just kind of leaving it up to the community out there knows best where the potentially better sites could be. There was an issue with regards to the cost of a waterline maybe related to the topography of the current site, so which is making it cost

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

April 8, 2020

prohibitive. And then there was a neighbor as Chief had explained earlier that caused the potential delay with the construction of the current site. So, there's a number of issues that surfaced with that property so I was approached by the community about asking the Department or the Administration to maybe hire a consultant to look at other potential sites that could work for the community as well. So, that in a nutshell is the impetus as to why I've been making this proposal for a study. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, so you don't know of any other sites but there is land.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: There is land and there was a couple of sites I can't recall the name of the street but there was a couple of members from the Haiku Community Association that looked at it and had been working with the Chief to possibly look at these alternative sites. I think one or two other sites.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay, Member Sugimura and then Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, I guess it's good to hear that whatever the dispute was on that land is gone then, Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, Member Sugimura, I believe that has been resolved the concern that was expressed by the neighbor. I guess when the Department explained what the intent was for the future fire station, I believe the neighbor seemed to have, you know, scaled back their concerns. Maybe you might want to ask the Chief for some further details about that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm sure that you all have searched for and are trying to find the site and I thought that the purchase of the recent property that we did that's by Jaws I heard one of the discussions was that you possibly wanted to put the fire station there although I . . . I know it's Open Space acquisition so maybe it's not possible. But was that also one of your thoughts, Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well, not so much, yeah, in response to your question not so much my thoughts but it was something that came out of the community as well as that area could potentially be a site for a fire station. But, yeah, that did come up in some discussions.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Well, thank you very much, Department, for trying to solve this problem over I don't know sounds like a lot of years when Mr. Molina was last on the Council, is that correct? And gone through Administrations, right, so it's gone through many Administrations so whatever you're doing to try support. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Pro Tem Kama?

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

April 8, 2020

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I can support Mr. Molina's proposals, Chair. And I think when we get to that place where we all actually lay it all out and take a real hard look at what can and what no can and what shall and what shall not be I think we'll just see at that time. So, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay. I was going to . . . It seemed like there was consensus there for a moment. Consensus?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Consensus, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Consensus.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I'm going to wait, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Okay, so that was the only priority proposal. And we can allow Chief Thyne to provide some final comments. Member Sugimura, are you waving bye or are you trying to get my attention? Okay. Chief Thyne, would you like to provide some final comments before we thank you for coming?

MR. THYNE: Well, the rule of the fire station we never stand in between any hungry people and dinner so I'm going to keep it short 'cause I know you've had a long day. Again, we are willing to work with you folks and have been but especially now in these trying times to adjust as needed. We just ask for your consideration of, you know, letting us know where we need to cut and we work through it as a process to make sure we can still take care of the, you know, respondents that are out there. And I know you will do that, and we appreciate that ahead of time. And we thank you for your support this past budget year. You know all that you provided to us allowed us to fight all those fires in the past and allows us right now to respond to this pandemic, and we appreciate your support. The way that you communicated us has been tremendous for us. It's been very morale boosting. It showed our Firefighters and Ocean Safety Officers that you support us and so we thank you tremendously for what you're doing, and we look forward to your guidance moving forward. And have a good evening.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief Thyne. You have a good evening too.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Mahalo, Chief.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks, Chief, aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Chief, and everyone in the Department. Okay. Mahalo for joining us and enjoy your dinner as well. And mahalo for continuing to work hard for our community and keep us safe. Okay, Members.

MR. THYNE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, we're on schedule. So, tomorrow we have Department of Liquor Control, Department of Management, and Office of the Mayor. Under Office of

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

April 8, 2020

the Mayor, we do have OED . . . okay, yeah, so it's another grants day. So, just, you know, prepare for testimony again. And I think that's everything. Let me check with Staff to see if I forget anything.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Because we're likely to spend a lot of time going over the Office of the Mayor because of OED, are we going to take that one up first like we did with Housing and Human Concerns today or do you have an order of which order you're going to take the Departments in?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm open to that consideration. We can see if Budget Director Yoshimura would have some insight to that. I didn't request Office of the Mayor to be first. But just as we took up DHHC first because of the grants I think that makes sense.

VICE-CHAIR KING: I just wondered if there was a . . . if we knew what order we were going in that might help. Does Budget Director Yoshimura have a preference?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Looks like she's grabbing the speaker . . . I think. Oh, I think she might be mute. . . okay, I'm going to unmute you. Hold on. Okay. Ms. Yoshimura?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Hi, Chair. I thought the schedule was for the Liquor Department followed by Management and Mayor. I can check the availability of the Chief of Staff and the Managing Director to see if we could switch anything out. But tomorrow there's normally a video teleconference that they both attend in the morning at 11:00. So, I think how the schedule was they were meeting the Committee at after lunch. So, let me check if they're available to . . . from earlier. I'm sure we can get the Economic Development Director here earlier but I'm not sure about the Chief of Staff or the Managing Director. But if that's your preference, to put them first then I'll follow-up and then I can let you know.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair, I don't have a preference. I was just asking to get a feel for what order so I can put my stuff in order, but I don't have a personal preference.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The order that it was on the calendar so the Department of Liquor, Department of Management, and then Office of the Mayor.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. We'll just stick with that then.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I think if we're anticipating more testifiers tomorrow, we'll probably go to 11:00 or even pass 11:00 with public testimony. Just my insight.

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

April 8, 2020

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any other comments? Department of Liquor, Department of Management, and then Office of the Mayor. So, it would require asking Department of Liquor Control and Department of Management to move a little later. And Office of the Mayor would come up a few hours earlier. So, it would be some adjusting, and we can check as Budget Director had offered to but, yeah, so that was the schedule that I had proposed. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. You know, I read the instructions I got the extra two minutes and all, but I guess I still misunderstood. I was thinking that when we do our questions it was going to be similar to last year but that there was a deadline to get 'em in. Like last year, I didn't understand the whole thing and I browsed through the thing that weekend and then I came in and so I was like behind the curve and then I was making my questions up as I went along and we were doing that back and forth thing. So, I thought like we were getting all our questions and getting 'em and then we were going to get written responses. So, a lot of my questions doesn't make sense or can't be like orally responded to and it's just like, you know, when I'm making decisions like for the grants before giving more grant money I want to see how they're doing with the grants that they got so far. So, a lot of my questions to OED was like, you know, like an update. I don't know if you guys been getting inundated with the HFUU FAM and the other FAM. I kind of wanted to know like more information on those things but not necessarily like talking to me like just like, you know, the reports and that type of information. So, was I misunderstanding the instructions that we aren't getting written responses?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So, when I asked for the questions from the Members the intention was to submit it to the Departments so that they could be prepared ahead of time in responding to our questions so that, you know, if they weren't prepared they would need to come back at a later time. But if we could prepare them with our questions ahead of time, then they could respond to our questions when it was their turn to come before us. So, that was the intention. I also mentioned several times when we were still in the Chamber meeting that I promised the Mayor that there wouldn't be over 300 letters for him to sign. It was just a lot of written correspondence that in assessing that new process that as the letters were coming in because we were in meetings all day it didn't seem like Members had an opportunity to review some of the responses that they received from the Departments. So, it didn't seem like it was as helpful as it could have been when they did come to, you know, come before us during the budget on the Chamber floor. Oftentimes they would refer to the response in their written correspondence to us. That the answer to your question is on, you know, LC-5 question 4. So, it was a lot of work for everyone, our Staff, their Staff, you know, and it just . . . it didn't seem like it was as beneficial for the amount of work that it entailed, so . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess I'm misunderstanding. I heard you say that, but my misunderstanding was that the way it was last year we kept adding on questions and so then there was the back and forth. And so, the misunderstanding on my part was we have a hard deadline, get it all in, that's the deadline and then that's like one sheet

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

April 8, 2020

instead of like 300 sheets. And then we look at the answers and then we have our five-minutes here instead of that. So, that was a misunderstanding on my part. I still would like to know like just briefly the information but if we're going to be talking it out then never mind, I guess, but it would be more difficult for me to make my decisions and I probably, with the given situation, would err on the side of cut it all. I don't know. But if we're --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Understood.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --okay with it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. So, I'll work with Budget Director to see if we can request some of what was already submitted in writing since that was a request that we made of Director Tsuhako today.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I just . . . *(inaudible)* . . . I thought that the decreasing of the 300 was meaning that there wouldn't be all those extra chances like how last year we're like, okay, here. Like I kept sending stuff in so that's why I went . . . in the beginning like okay this is our one chance. We're going to get these questions answered and then I was planning on reading all the answers to my questions, you know. But so, I guess I didn't, I tried to read the information and the instructions and listen, but I still missed the mark.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry I wasn't clear.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, no. I guess I thought I knew what was going on, but I didn't check back to clarify that I really actually understood what was going on. And I just was going on based off of what happened last year, and I thought I knew what was going on, but I didn't know what was going on.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: As I stated from the beginning, all of this is new, you know, we're working remotely, there's a pandemic, you know, it's a crazy time and I am flexible and, you know, we'll figure this out and we'll make sure that everyone has the information necessary to make informed decisions. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I was wondering what Member Paltin wanted to suggest moving forward? Do you have a . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm going to go revisit my questions again like we have been doing in the past few and it's just, you know, for the . . . I realized like how you said OED is a big one and I just wanted to, you know, get kind of a little update on some of the grant funding that are questionable in my mind or, you know. But I don't need it read aloud everything. I'll try and whittle it down more and then maybe have some that I don't even care about the answer anymore, some that I appreciate getting the answer in writing

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

April 8, 2020

but, if not, I understand. And then some that I'd like to know the answer for sure 'cause I've got a lot of questions and that's just I guess how I am.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I was trying to follow her but it's little hard, yeah. Yeah, I'm trying to find some middle ground and I'm not seeing it right now because, frankly, Tamara has needs the rest of us don't seem to have. But I am willing to and I'm sure everybody else is to figure out a compromise. I mean, I gotta tell you listening to 75 questions and only the Director answers, it was tough because you sitting there want to say something, right. She says something and you don't quite agree with her they still keep going onto the next question and the next. So, it's . . . that's a tough format. I can see that. But I'm not really sure what you're driving at actually, Tamara? I mean, what do you want to see going forward?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Less time listening to them, but I guess, you know, there's . . . I have a really hard time to make decisions and sometimes like listening to them talk and I don't know if what they're saying is true or not all the time. But sometimes hearing the whole explanation helps me to make decisions. I'm not a . . . I think maybe I'm not . . . this is a decision-making job and I'm not having an easy time making decisions a lot of times. And sometimes I feel like more information would help me make my decision but it's not always the case but when I don't know what the decision is and, you know, I think it's . . . I'm having hard time because I feel the urgency to make a lot of cuts because everyone around me has lost their jobs and I don't know what those cuts are and so I'm just trying to get more information on where it makes sense to make the cuts. And a lot of the stuff is, you know, some stuff within the County I know a lot about. And so, I'm trying to use that perspective to try and figure it all out. But I'm just gonna go relook at all my questions and relook at especially the ones that are questionable that I'm going to fund and, you know, I think it would be easier for me maybe if they came up with a . . . something that they can send us that would do that 5 percent to 10 percent cuts like in paper so that we're not writing it down. So, then it's more on them than us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, Members, okay, so two questions. One, would you like to adjourn and continue this discussion of figuring out our internal system or would you like this to continue airing on Akaku? And two, how was the ten-minutes each Member process as a compromise with what Member Paltin just suggested? So, those two questions but the first one first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's adjourn.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, so for everyone, yeah, any --

VICE-CHAIR KING: I have a comment on . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --objections to adjourning the meeting?

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

April 8, 2020

VICE-CHAIR KING: No, I don't have any objections, but I just wanted to throw out there that, you know, instead of going . . . if we're going to do the ten minutes instead of going through the . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Would you like to adjourn first? Yes or no?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Let's adjourn and get this . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Adjourn.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are there any objections? I hear none.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: None. Okay. All right. So, we're going to do that first, yeah. All right, so for the public watching, you know, join us tomorrow at 9:00. We have Department of Liquor Control, Department of Management, and the Office of the Mayor that will be coming before the Committee. It is 6:26 p.m. on April 8th and the Economic Development and Budget Committee is now adjourned. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 6:26 p.m.

APPROVED:



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

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Transcribed by: Jo-Ann Sato

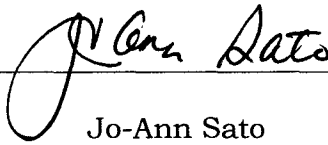
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 8, 2020

CERTIFICATE

I, Jo-Ann Sato, 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 26th day of April, in Pukalani, Hawai'i


Jo-Ann Sato