

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 9, 2020

Online Only via BlueJeans Link

CONVENE: 9:03 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Riki Hokama, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member (out 4:57 p.m.; in 5:49 p.m.)
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.: Michael P. Victorino, Mayor
Sananda K. Baz, Managing Director, Department of Management
Jacob Verkerke, Chief Technology Officer, Management Information Systems
Division, Department of Management
Tyson K. Miyake, Chief of Staff, Department of Management
Kay S. Fukumoto, Economic Development Director, Office of the Mayor
Michele M. Yoshimura, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Wendy Nathan, Budget Specialist V, Budget Office, Office of the Mayor
Georgette Christita Reyes Tyau, Deputy Director, Department of Liquor Control
Layne Silva, Liquor Control Officer, Department of Liquor Control
Mimi Desjardins, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel

OTHERS: Adam Radford, Maui and Molokai Invasive Species Committees
Audi Epifano
Beth Savitt
Bobby Pahia
Ian Chan Hodges, Maui ESG Investment Project Phase II
Jenny Pell
Jessi Blaylock
Mark Sheehan
Katie Romanchuk
Kyle Clarkin, Maui Family Farmer Training Network

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Lee Louise Mackessy, Maui Family Farmer Training Network
Melissa Reickert, Maui Family Farmer Training Network
Mike McLean
Ruston Barczy
Marissa Lindsey, Maui Family Farmer Training Network
William "Bill" Greenleaf
Toni Marie Davis
Tara Grace
Charlotte O'Brien, Executive Director, Food Security of Hawai'i
Kanani Higbee
Keali'i Reichel
Joseph Kohn M.D., We Are One, Inc.
Grace Pretre, Maui Family Farmer Training Network
Scott Lacasse, Maui School Garden Network
Irene Plunkett Mina, Hawai'i Farmers Union United
Kathy Becklin, Maui School Garden Network
David Fisher, Hawai'i Farmers Union United
Autumn Ness, Hawai'i Program Director, Beyond Pesticides
Teena Rasmussen, President, Maui County Farm Bureau
Warren Watanabe, Maui Farm Bureau
Triston Rodrigues
Simon Russell
Napua Hueu
Farron Cabral, Common Ground Collective
Aram Armstrong
Jennifer Chrupalyk, Maui Family Farmer Training Network
Vincent Kimura, President, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, Waimānalo
Chapter
Jackie Keefe
Faith Chase, Maui Family Training Network
Walter Ritte
Jill Tokuda, Executive Director, Nisei Veterans Memorial Center
Joey Mella
Karen Comcowich
Jody Bowman, Common Ground Collective
John Dobovan, Kulahaven Farms LLC
Jessica "Raina" Myers
Pamela Tumpap, President, Maui Chambers of Commerce
Hokuao Pellegrino
Anny Bruch, Hawai'i Farmers Union United
Jadda Miller, Maui School Garden Network
David Daly, Director, Maui Economic Opportunity Development Business
Development Center
Cara Flores
Kaena Elaban-Manuwa
Christopher O'Brien, Sustainable Molokai
Duke Johnson

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Kai Nishiki
Aunty Mopsy (Mapuana Kekahuna Aaronā)
Elena Walker, Maui County Veterans Council
Vincent Mina, President, Hawai'i Farmers Union United
Melissa Eisenhart, Keiki Clothing Exchange
Derek Barr
Annie Alvarado
Others (5)

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please come to order. Aloha kakahiaka kākou. `O wai ka Iku Ha'i o kēia Komike, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. It is 9:03 on April 9, 2020, and just a reminder for everyone to please silence their cell phones. Mahalo, everyone, for joining us. Oh okay. Let's try to remember to silence everyone as they join, and if Staff wouldn't mind helping me to ensure everyone is muted when they join, that would be really helpful. Mahalo. Okay, so we'll start with introductions. I'm Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair of the Economic Development and Budget Committee, and we have with us today Committee Vice-Chair Kelly King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair and everybody else who's over --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --in TV land.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. Nice to see everyone.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. Member Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Aloha kakahiaka, Madam Chair, and greetings from Makawao.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. Chair Alice Lee. Oh, okay. I got you, I got you, Alice.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Aloha to everyone from beautiful Wailuku.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. You chose `ōlelo Hawai'i today. Okay. Member Riki Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Good morning, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. Member Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. Shout out to all the hospital workers holding it down under difficult circumstances out there, praying for their safety.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Absolutely. Aloha kakahiaka, Member Paltin, and mahalo for that. Member Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning from beautiful Kula. Nice to see all of you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. And Pro Temp Tasha Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair and everyone out there, from sunny Kahului, and God bless us all today.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Good morning, Pro Temp Kama. Okay. And we have with us from Corporation Counsel monitoring, Deputy Corporation Counsel Mimi Desjardins. Also monitoring from the Office of the Mayor, Budget Director Michelle Yoshimura. We'll have joining us later Department of Liquor Control, Department of Management, and Office of the Mayor. We have helping us our superheroes behind the scenes, our Committee Staff. Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier, Legislative Analysts Shelly Espeleta, Chester Carson, Lesley Milner, and Kasie Apo Takayama. We have one big item on today's agenda, EDB-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the County of Maui. We'll begin with public testimony. Mahalo, everyone, for joining us. I know we have about 42 testifiers so far signed up. Testifiers wanting to provide...oh, oral and video...oral testimony via phone or teleconference will be accepted. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should have joined online via the meeting link on BlueJeans. [BlueJeans.com/597785199](https://www.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 entering meeting code 597 785 199 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'll kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your first and last name. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Participants who wish to view the meeting only without providing testimony, please view a live cablecast on *Akakū* Channel 53. You can also visit [mauicounty.us/agendas](https://www.mauicounty.us/agendas) to access live and archived meeting videos. For a click-here link to BlueJeans meeting and for an up-to-date information on the budget, please visit www.mauicounty.us/2021budget. I'll remind Committee members, the Administration, and the public to please be patient with us as we continue to navigate this new platform, and I'm sure it's new to many of you all too so mahalo for your patience. Before I begin testimony, I'll remind Members to please keep your questions limited to clarifying what was provided in the three minutes of the testimony. And if you would like to ask someone to serve as a resource for the Committee, we'll ask that the testifier please e-mail edb.committee@mauicounty.us your contact information, and we'll be able to contact you if we have additional questions. So, really quickly,

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Members, since we discussed it yesterday, we will stay with the schedule that was planned which is to start with Department of Liquor Control, Department of Management, and then the Office of the Mayor. So...okay. So, we'll proceed with oral testimony. And then...oh, and I will remind or I'll ask those testifying to please turn down the volume when it's your turn to testify to reduce feedback that we've been hearing. Okay. So, we'll start with our first testifier, Adam Radford, Maui and Molokai Invasive Species Committees, followed by Audi Epifano. So, Mr. Radford, if you could please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony, and you have three minutes on the clock.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. RADFORD: Thank you, Chair. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. RADFORD: Okay. Thank you all, Members, for your commitment. I think you all know our programs for Maui and Molokai, and I appreciate your longstanding support of those programs. And I wanted to talk a little bit about safety because we're in this time where obviously safety is of primary concern. But coming from my seat, I also think environmental protection and safety is really important to preserve both water resources, quality of life, other things that will come back at some point. And so, I'm here today to ask you to maintain your support for our programs and I hope that you will do so. And just a couple highlights is that in the last year, we have been quite successful at ramping up our community engagement program for coqui frog control and are getting feedback from people saying things like it's the first time I've been able to sleep without earplugs in years, it's the quietest I've ever heard. And so, that's not across-the-board comments but in the places where we're able to work, we're being highly successful. So, what we're asking is that support for coqui frog control continues, and in the Mayor's Budget there was 500,000 allocated as essentially a line item. We are asking that could be bumped up to a million because previously it was 2.5 million. We feel that a million would help us sustain these efforts both for our crew on the ground but also to grow the community empowerment program. For little fire ants another great anecdotal story is that in Nahiku where we have our largest fire ant infestation, we have hunters telling us that they used to as they say get lit up by little fire ants and now when they're hunting in those areas they are not. And so, our helicopter treatment approach is seeming to prove highly effective and that's over about 140-acre area of incredibly challenging terrain, and we're hoping that the Committee will consider continuing what was allocated last year which was 700,000, so having that in again this year.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It says my video is off. Oh, I see here, we can do that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. Will you please mute yourself. I'm sorry, Mr. Radford.

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MR. RADFORD: No problem, understandable. So anyway, asking the Council to consider, sustain support basically the equivalent of what it was last year which was 700,000. And then for general work, what we were hoping to get last year and I know Member Sinenci his intention was to have 400,000 allocated to Miconia and other invasive species with the focus of that funding being on Miconia. And I believe that he's going to ask for 500,000 to support those efforts because last year that's not what we received. Currently, we're allocated 250,000 for Miconia and other invasive species, but it's not adequate to support...at one time we had the crew in Hana up to 12 people and we'd like to have that continue. And it sounds like I might be out of time but I just want to thank you as always for your support and consideration. And I can provide written clarification if necessary.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Radford. It looks like Member Paltin would appreciate some written additional details in writing. Okay. Members --

MR. RADFORD: Yeah, can do.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --any...mahalo, Mr. Radford. So, Members, if you have a question, please unmute yourself and say Chair and get my attention.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Mr. Radford, are you still there?

MR. RADFORD: Yes, I'm still on. Sorry, I can't figure out how to get...oh, there's the video.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. That's okay. As long as you can hear me that's good.

MR. RADFORD: Sorry about that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: I just wanted to find out if you were...oh, now we can see you. I just wanted to find out if you were continuing your operations during this, you know, this lockdown that we have, and if not, are we going backwards by, during this period? Are we, you know, is, are there more populations expanding because we don't have teams out there right now, or is it fairly stable because we don't...we have less human activity? What's kind of happening with our invasive species with the little fire ants and the coqui frogs during this lockdown period?

MR. RADFORD: Thank you for that question. It's a great question. And so, we're continuing our operations in terms of we have all staff still working and employed and that is one other point I wanted to make is that our goal is to maintain that, because we view ourselves as a resource when we come out of this for hiring. We've always wanted to hire local and I think that once we emerge from this time, we'll be staged to do that. Whether the populations are expanding or not, I...perhaps with coqui they are 'cause our coqui crew that's been fairly all field activity. With our fire ants operation we've

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maintained that schedule, and so what we're doing is we're keeping smaller crews out working but maintaining all the CDC and World Health Organization protocols for keeping people safe. So, that's been a real balance and we're hoping to have everybody completely back out in the field by next week. But in the meantime, we've been getting caught up on training and things like that and responding to the greatest threats that we face. And so, I...particularly to your question, the fire ants I don't think that's expanding at all, we're staying on track with that. The coqui perhaps but not much 'cause we have...we only kind of reined people in, in the last week and a half or so.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you for that answer, I appreciate it. And I appreciate the work you're doing so good to hear that people are getting to sleep without their earplugs now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay, Members, any other questions? Okay, hearing none, I'll thank Mr. Radford for...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just requesting that Mr. Radford hang on if we need him as a resource.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mister...

MR. RADFORD: Yes, I'm happy to do so.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. So, you can e-mail edb.committee@mauicounty.us your contact information, and when the agenda item comes up, we'll contact you if we have additional questions.

MR. RADFORD: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Radford. And then so you can sign off after. Okay, mahalo. Okay, the next person we have signed up to testify is Audi Epifano, followed by Beth Savitt. Okay, Ms. Epifano, will you please unmute yourself and you can proceed with your testimony.

MS. EPIFANO: Aloha. Good morning. My name is Audi Epifano from the apua [sic] of Pauwela and moku of Hamakualoa. I'm conferencing with you this morning to speak honestly of the amazing leadership that I have seen from Phyllis Robinson and Georgia Pinsky in regards to the FAM Program. I also want to note that I was deeply affected by the e-mail sent to us by HFUU on Vincent Mina whom we've met once at orientation and has had little to no involvement or interest in our program that I have been aware of. Words cannot express the level of anger, disappointment, and distrust that I feel towards HFUU from a personal level right now upon reading the e-mail sent

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by taking these women off of the FAM Program, completely changing our momentum and direction. In my opinion, it truly emphasizes how disconnected HFUU is from the program and that HFUU does not have the leadership abilities that are required for such an important position. In a time of such uncertainty, we need stability in the few places we can find it. I asked myself while reading the e-mail, how could Vincent believe this is the appropriate time to do this? How could HFUU think that we would be able to respect the real leadership when they're so clearly off base of the needs of the people in this program and think that we want to postpone this program right now? How could anyone think the postponement of this knowledge is an appropriate move during the time when we need to grow our own food more than ever? It's absolutely ludicrous in my opinion. Our group of apprentices and mentors have been working together. We have been to each other's properties asking questions, sharing insights and experiences. Where has HFUU been during all of that? If they think we're going to allow the stall of this program when we need help in farmhands more than ever, they're out of touch. I'm a member of HFUU and to date I have not attended any meetings. Unfortunately, they don't seem to meet at the times with my hectic schedule. I'm also currently a member of Cohort 5 and I was elated to hear that Georgia and Phyllis were enabling us to continue our in-house learning going by reworking our schedule and streaming our hands-off learning via Zoom during this pandemic. My husband and I work in the restaurant industry and we've both been laid off indefinitely with two small proud future farmers to take care of. This program through the guidance of Georgia and Phyllis is supporting and uplifting our dreams of farming for our family and safeguarding our community against exactly this pandemic issue. The guidance and attention that I have received from both Phyllis and Georgia throughout this program thus far is unmatched, and their passion for facilitating our learning and turning our dreams into realistic goals is unwavering and steadfast. I've witnessed schedule changes and rain delays, postponement of farm tours due to the sickness prevention with pigs, mentors being injured, and still with grace and poise Phyllis and Georgia keep us informed and get us rescheduled and in taking information. More than anything the level of the hands-on involvement, consistent attention to detail, upstanding rapport with our mentors and apprentices, and passion for sharing knowledge in our community are qualities that I have seen firsthand from both Phyllis and Georgia. And I do not believe the FAM Program will survive as we know and love it without them. What they're doing here is a beautiful thing. I've been so proud to be a part of it and I'm not interested in changing direction in the middle of our program. In...oh. Oh, did I flip? Sorry, I flipped it over somehow.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Epifano, will you please close with one sentence?

MS. EPIFANO: Yes. Save the FAM Program by keeping Phyllis and Georgia and allow the Maui Family Farmer Training Network to be funded under Food Security Hawai'i. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Epifano. Okay, Members, if you have any questions for the testifier, please unmute yourself and say Chair and I will call on you. Okay, hearing no questions, mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Epifano. Next we have Beth Savitt, followed by Bobby Pahia. Ms. Savitt, will you please proceed...

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MS. SAVITT: Aloha, Chair Rawlins. Aloha, Councilmembers. I think something is up with my...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, I muted you. So, I'm just going to provide some instructions so that we can reduce the feedback. So, whatever...if you're listening to the meeting somehow, if you could turn the volume down and then that way the speaker won't provide too much feedback when you're speaking. Okay, I'm going to unmute you now and we'll try again. Ms. Savitt?

MS. SAVITT: Aloha. Is that better? Okay, thank you. I'm getting reverb still back here.

MS. ROMANCHUK: I see two Beth Savitt's. There are two of you so there's an echo.

MS. MILNER: You're signed in as Beth and Barbara, so do you have a second device --

MS. ROMANCHUK: Correct.

MS. MILNER: --that is picking this up?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for everyone's patience as we figure this out. We really appreciate it. Also, just so that everyone knows I did share the Google doc, it's a spreadsheet that has everyone's name that's signed up to testify so you can see where you are if you'd like to, you know, sign off and sign back on or just so that you have an idea of how long it'll take until it's your turn. Okay, Ms. Savitt.

MS. SAVITT: Did we get rid of one of me?

MS. MILNER: I'm going to drop the Barbara account from the call and that will hopefully solve the issue.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, we'll try doing that. Let me know when it's ready, Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Okay, Barbara has been dropped from the call and Beth is still available.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, we're going to try again. Here we go. Okay, Ms. Savitt.

MS. SAVITT: Okay. Hello. Can you hear me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Yes, perfect.

MS. SAVITT: Aloha to all and to all you Councilmembers, thank you for your support to our County and your hard work at this time. We appreciate you and appreciate you having us testify like this. This is wonderful you're doing this. I'm here as both a private person who runs the Savitt Family Foundation which has supported the FAM

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Program pretty much since the beginning. I was working...I sit on five different boards and at various times I have needed fiscal sponsorship for the groups we've been in, I've provided...our groups have provided fiscal sponsorship for others. And I was quite astounded to see a change in the way things were being handled for the FAM Program between Tri-Isle's history of three-four years of being a preapproved fiscal sponsor to all of a sudden when they dropped it a year ago, to it being changed to what apparently kind of looks like a comprehensive fiscal sponsorship. I am not sure how that works with a grant. I've received grants, I've written grants, I am not sure how that works. So in looking at the FAM line item budget, we need to be clear on those things. Where was that standing? The program created by Bill Greenleaf, Simon Russell, Phyllis Robinson, and several others five years ago, I was part of that in the sense that Simon was doing a project for sustainable agriculture for the Hawai'i keiki and the `āina, and we were working intimately on bringing the farming program to the Big Island. We were also working with Alikea at the time. I was very well aware of HFUU's beginning several years later. The FAM Program took off and it was small. Phyllis worked so hard with Georgia, writing her own grants, getting her own grants, and pushing the program forward with a lot of heart and soul. But there was a lot of muscle behind it. She is the one who got the farmer mentors together. She is the one who advertised this. This has been her baby from the get-go. When you're a fiscal sponsor, you don't necessarily own the program, it is not your product. You pass the money through. You take some portion of it. Sustainable Hawaiian Agriculture for the Keiki and the `Āina at times has taken 2 percent to 5 percent as its fiscal sponsor. Other groups I've been in, the same. HFUU took 25 to 30 percent as their fiscal sponsorship budget. As a foundation donor, I found that to be pretty upsetting. I would have liked to have seen more donated back into the program. As a funder for the program as someone who gives donations, I have had to rush in to sponsor things for Phyllis, to rescue moments for Phyllis. I'd like to see her entirely running this along with Georgia. They have other programs which will provide fiscal sponsorship. Food Security Hawai'i is willing to do so at 5 percent, and we'd like to see this go forward for Phyllis. I see it's the end. Thank you so much, so very much for hearing this and I hope you continue to support the FAM Program. Thank you, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Savitt. Okay, Members, if you have any questions for our testifier, please unmute yourself, say Chair, and I will call on you. Okay. Hearing no need for questions, mahalo, Ms. Savitt, for your testimony. And we'll go to the next testifier. Next testifier is Bobby Pahia, followed by Ian Chan Hodges.

MR. PAHIA: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Members. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. PAHIA: Okay, great. This discussion appears to be all about, a lot about the FAM Program, and I believe that, you know, the educational process is an integral part. I totally agree with that. And the FAM Program is a program that prepares potential candidates to be farmers. It exposes them to what it takes to be a farmer, and I think that's an important component; however, it is but one component of building up our

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agriculture industry. Yes, building the pipeline with potential future farmers is great, but I want to remind you that we also need to consider the farmers today that are in the trenches today that face a tough business. It's...any farmer or if you know of any farmer, you know that they're hard workers and it's tough making a go in the farming industry. So, when I heard that we're going to remove a large sum of money from the HFUU Program, I was very troubled to hear that, because granted yes, it's important to get future farmers out there but, Councilmembers, let's not forget about those that have been in the trenches farming for many, many years. And the support and funding that we receive from the County and from other entities is very important for the success of not only future farmers but also for the farmers that are in the trenches and are working today. Please take that into consideration because being a farmer is not an easy task. You have to love what you're doing. And I have seen many people try to be a farmer and I have seen many people fall to the wayside. So again, I ask each and every Councilmember to remember us, those that are in the trenches doing this every single day. And I thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing, Mr. Pahia. Okay, Members, if you have any questions, please get my attention by unmuting yourself. Hearing no questions, mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Pahia.

MR. PAHIA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll move to our next testifier, Ian Chan Hodges, followed by Jenny Pell.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Hi, good morning, Chair and Members of the Council. Thanks for the opportunity to testify and thanks for all the work you're doing in these difficult circumstances. I'm testifying this morning for the Maui ESG Investment Project Phase II which is we're going to...connecting capital deployment to community need and I'm testifying on behalf of Responsible Markets. And basically we have always been planning to do a Phase II of our project, but now in response to Covid-19, we're working to address the unprecedented challenges and opportunities that have recently emerged in a global economy of course as we all know here hopefully in Maui County in a responsible and transformative manner. The Maui ESG Project is developing concrete strategies for directing capital improvements to community need --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not your time.

MR. CHAN HODGES: --to both the private and public sectors.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that you sharing your screen?

MR. CHAN HODGES: Oh, it's not me.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I paused your time.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Can you see me? What's that?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, I'm going to figure out how we stop accepting this shared screen.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair? I just got another, like a couple duplicate screens on my screen. Is that what you're seeing?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Of the BlueJeans invitation.

MS. MILNER: Mr. Hutchenson [sic]...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, BlueJeans got interrupted.

MS. MILNER: Mr. Hutchenson [sic] you are sharing your screen right now. Could you please stop sharing your screen? Otherwise I will need to drop you from the call. Okay, Mr. Hutchenson [sic], I'm going to drop you from the call and please sign back in without doing screen share. Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Lesley.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, all.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mr. Ian Chan Hodges?

MR. CHAN HODGES: Thank you, Chair. So, I'll continue. As a key part of Phase II the Maui ESG Project establishing a capital deployment for community needs taskforce that includes institutional investors, asset managers, business leaders, foundations and entrepreneurs, and other ESG investment experts, many of whom participated in the Ahupua`a Investment Summit that was at the end of January, beginning of February, as well as key local leaders, both elected and community, and diverse local community members. And the near-term community needs that we've identified so far are short-to-medium-term economic activities that is compliant with Covid-19 mitigation strategies, the creation of jobs not relying on outside discretionary spending such as tourism, and increase local control of our productive assets to build community wealth and long-term economic viability for working families. Long-term outcomes that we are pushing for is capital successfully deployed using an ESG ahupua`a investment framework for identified community needs, increase the economic diversification that provides the foundation for the creation of 1,000 jobs in Maui County that are not dependent on tourism and adhere to ahupua`a values, and finally replicable outcomes that continue to position Maui County to become a financial and educational leader of the global advancement of environmental social governance investment which is a growing multi-trillion-dollar market with integration to the ahupua`a model that we discussed at our summit. And that's the end of my testimony. Thank you so much.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Chan Hodges. Members, any need for clarification of our testifier?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ian. Are you still here?

MR. CHAN HODGES: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Are you in the Mayor's Budget right now?

MR. CHAN HODGES: No, I don't believe so.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, so what amount are you proposing for your, the activities you just described?

MR. CHAN HODGES: The...you should have...I think everybody should have received a copy of the proposal but I'm sure you have a thousand e-mails coming in.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah.

MR. CHAN HODGES: But the total amount is \$150,000.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Yeah, I do but I just wanted to get that on record. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Hodges. My question, I guess I don't know if it, who it's for but my question is being that a number of us went to the ESG Summit, but not a quorum at any one time, is it still legal for us to be voting on this, on the Sunshine Law situation?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Corporation Counsel? Ms. Desjardins?

MS. DESJARDINS: Can you hear me? Hi, can you hear me?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

MS. DESJARDINS: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi, good morning.

MS. DESJARDINS: You know, I don't know the answer to that question, my gut says it's not a problem. You went to a presentation, you disclosed, you know, what you learned at

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that presentation. Give me some time to think about it before you vote on it. I'll get back to you. But I got the question if you want me to look into it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Desjardins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll --

MS. DESJARDINS: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --bring that up later when the item comes up on the agenda.

MS. DESJARDINS: Okay. And I'll look into it. Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Mahalo. Mahalo, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair? Thank you. Yeah, the ESG Project was one of my district proposals today, and so if I can ask Ian to send his proposal to the Committee and maybe he can stay on as a resource when we get to the item.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Happy to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, Mr. Chan Hodges, you can e-mail edb.committee@mauicounty.us your contact information, and when the agenda item comes up today, we'll contact you.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Thank you so much, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. MILNER: Chair, you're muted.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Keani, you're muted. We didn't hear what you just said.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Chan Hodges. We'll move to our next testifier, Ms. Jenny Pell, followed by Ms. Jessi Blaylock. Ms. Pell is number 7 of 62 testifiers. Ms. Pell?

MS. PELL: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Aloha, Council. Thank you so much for having me today to testify. We're all aware that Maui's an extremely food insecure County importing

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upwards of 90 percent of our food. The current Coronavirus crisis has motivated many of us to work even harder on enduring food and farming solutions as global food shortages loom on the near horizon. Having your own abundant backyard garden with a variety of fruits and vegetables is an important part of a food secure Maui County, especially a strategy that emphasizes indigenous agriculture. During World War II, victory gardens provided households with 40 percent of their food need. `Ohana Gardens is a new project of the Maui nonprofit Food Security Hawai'i, and our team is working tirelessly to set up educational support network, materials and supplies for backyard gardeners. We anticipated a national run on seeds last month and managed to place one large order before supplies started to dwindle nationally. One of our key strategies is creating a seedlings subscription service where households can get monthly flats of seedlings that are specific both to their growing area and their culture as well as one food-bearing tree plant each month. We have a job creation program embedded in our project. Our goal is 1,000 new backyard gardens and 10,000 food-bearing trees in the ground in 2020. Once we're allowed again to congregate, phase two of the project will include community gardens. Thank you so much for considering our \$75,000 County funding request. To successfully grow our County's farming capacity we have to train new farmers. Several years ago I facilitated a day-long strategic planning session for the flagship Haleakala Chapter of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United. At the time, our board was extremely active working on policy issues and key infrastructure needs alongside local farming solutions. It was there that we honed the five-point Farmers Union plan which included food hubs and the Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program. We discussed at length at that meeting that programs that may initially collaborate with Farmers Union or work under their umbrella will likely want to become independent businesses and nonprofits. We all agreed this was a good thing. I was a champion for food hubs which was never intended to be under HFUU but as an independent worker-owned cooperative. Dr. Phyllis Robinson was the champion for the Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program, growing farmers by tapping into the vast wealth of farming mana'o on Maui. We discussed that day that FAM would want to become its own nonprofit organization. At a time when our County needs to be focused on supporting people who are dedicating their careers to creating a food secure Maui County, bringing a frivolous lawsuit against passionate and beloved farm advocates who developed and instituted an entire farming training program is a travesty and HFUU should be ashamed of themselves. I have one sentence left. I beg the Farmers Union to drop this lawsuit and open the door for the Maui Family Farmer Training Network Program to continue as it always intended, as an independent nonprofit organization. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Pell. Members, any clarifying questions for our testifier? Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Just wanted to ask when we get to this, this is one of the priority items, the `Ohana Gardens that I have on my list and so if we could ask Ms. Pell to be available when we get to that item as well.

MS. PELL: Of course.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Pell, will you please e-mail your contact information to edb.committee@mauicounty.us and we'll contact you when the agenda item comes up.

MS. PELL: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Our next testifier is...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair? Madam Chair? Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I would recommend...no, I'd like to recommend that the Councilmembers if they have questions if it's possible to ask the testifier to e-mail them the answer, because we have just too many testifiers signed up and if everybody has got a question, it's really unfair to them to wait all of the time, you know, all...an inordinate amount of time while Councilmembers ask questions. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Committee Members, are there any objections to what was proposed by Council Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No objection, I just wasn't clear what...how the...what...no objection but not...can you repeat the instructions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member...one moment, Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Madam...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee, so...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee, so your request is to have the Councilmembers contact a potential resource person directly on their own?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. If they have a question, they can contact that person. I notice that we have 87 people online and many of them are testifiers. We'll never get to them if we continually ask too many questions. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, so you're saying no questions?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, unless it's really important.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Consensus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members...Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Chair. I can appreciate Chair Lee's request. The only thing I would ask is if you would give us flexibility if in testimony if something is said that we don't understand, that you allow us to just ask the testifier can you please clarify what you said. You know, I think clarification is a little bit different than asking a particular question. But just in case there's something that's said by a testifier that I don't understand, it would help me better, you know, interpret what was said. So, if you would at least allow for that, that would be helpful. But otherwise, yeah, for, you know, questions and, you know, because we have so much testifiers, I can live with the request. But I just would ask that you allow for flexibility to, for us to ask a clarification on what was said in terms of, you know, if a particular word was said that we don't understand or a term, I would just like that flexibility allowed for if possible. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your request, Member Molina. That was actually what I requested at the very beginning of the meeting, for clarifying questions only. Please do not ask the testifier to expand on what was not said, Members. I think, you know, the Members are doing a pretty good job at that but if we could just be a little more mindful. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if it was acceptable to use the chat function if we need to clarify or...and then we don't need to stop and then it's still transparent to everyone on the call, if that's an acceptable...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I concur, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't have any objections to that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Concur.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, but however just a caveat to that, those that are calling in would...through, you know, telephone they don't have access to the chat function. So, but if they do, you're welcome to chat with the testifier for clarifying questions. Committee Vice-Chair King?

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Yeah, I just wanted to point out that I don't think everybody can see chat so, you know, I think it would just be mindful like you said at the beginning that we can use our own judgment then it's fair to everybody. 'Cause I think everybody deserves to see the questions that we're asking as well as hearing the answers.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, is this being recorded not only by *Akaku* but is it also being recorded by our secretaries in terms of questions and answers?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not...okay, is your question are we going to be doing verbal minutes...verbatim minutes?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Correct.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that your question?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Because at least if they...if people cannot participate, if they're on the phone, through chat, at least they'd have a record of the questions and the answers although they could not participate in hearing the answers to the questions. But at least they have a method of receiving that information. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. We are going to be doing verbatim minutes; however, minutes are generally not posted until 30 days later. So, just a heads-up on that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, but at least there's a document.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There is.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay, Members, any other questions before we move forward with testimony?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, we're good.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Members. Okay, our next testifier is Jessi Blaylock, followed by Mark Sheehan, and that's testifier 7 out of 65. Ms. Blaylock, will you please proceed?

MS. BLAYLOCK: Thank you for making it possible, Council. My name's Jessi Blaylock, I live in the moku Hamakualoa in the ahupua'a Kuiaha. I tend chickens and honey, grow fruit and veggies and herbs on the land that I tend. I am also a consistent participant in the Upcountry Farmers Market. I joined the Maui Family Farm Training Network because I was having trouble piecing together how to be a farmer on my own. When FAM was presented to my partner and I, we were so excited to apply and I've been blown away from day one. The program has been so much more than I had ever anticipated. With coordinators Phyllis Robinson and Georgia Pinsky at the helm, we have been gifted an incredible network of resources the farming community. We have been encouraged to learn in ways unimagined in other programs. To highlight a bit of what we were learning, started with observation of the land, knowing your rain, your soil, irrigation, historical agriculture. We're examining different farming styles from conventional permaculture market gardening to biodynamics and hydroponics. We're being trained in Excel and business planning, being encouraged to engage heavily in the community and get innovated with marketing. And out of all of the schooling I've done, this has been the most intensive course I've taken by far. It became more than just school, it was exciting, effective, and a group of students and mentors I came to love. It starts with our coordinators, Georgia and Phyllis who are constantly there for us providing one-on-one feedback, personal coaching, or getting us the connections we need to continue on our projects. They make sure we have the funding to continue paying mentors and emersion hours. They hold each and every one of us accountable making sure we're engaged in the subject matter and implement it in the way we can. They make sure we understand what it means to be a farmer in Maui and how to do it well with honor. So, upon the breakout of Covid-19 when farming is at its peak importance here in Maui, Vincent Mina of HFUU decided to hold a vote to remove my coordinators from their positions for whatever personal political reason it may have been. This occurred in month four of seven...of a seven-month commitment for us students. The one thing that was a silver lining to this pandemic has been taken away from us. Heartbroken is an understatement. It's not right, it's not fair, it's not just. The Family Farmer Training Network deserves to be its own entity, because it is a pono program and it will not continue that way under the leadership of HFUU and that I am certain of. These people are unaware of the framework that has been built or the relationships that have already been forged. They want to throw it all away and start over, very unaware of the destruction that comes with that. Similar to clear-cutting a rain forest, the beauty and inner dynamics will never serve the land in the same way again. I am asking, the student who wants to find excitement and passion in my learning, a student who wants to provide for my community with abundance, and a person who believes that doing the right thing must prevail, please allow the Maui Family Farming Training Network to be funded under Food Security Hawai'i. Please allow Cohort 5 to resume and graduate together unmangled. Allow us to build a program without personal politics and with a fresh-minded leadership. This program can and should grow. Our statistics of completion are unmatched by any State-run program. If you truly want farmers on Maui, Lāna'i, and Molokai, this

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program ran by Phyllis and Georgia will get you there. And if you want thoughtful farmers to grow your food, this program will rear them. And if you want to be a part of the community that cares about each other, this program will foster that. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing. Mahalo, Ms. Blaylock. Okay, Members, if you have a question --

MS. BLAYLOCK: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --after the testifier is completed with their testimony then please get my attention. I'm not going to ask for questions. So, you just get my attention if there's any clarifying questions and we'll just proceed like that. Okay. Okay, mahalo, Ms. Blaylock, for your testimony today. Okay, next we have Mark Sheehan and Katie Romanchuk.

MR. SHEEHAN: Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers, members of the public.

MS. MILNER: Sorry, just one moment. It looks like you're signed in twice. I'm going to drop the other account so we lose the echo.

MR. SHEEHAN: I hope you can hear me okay. I've had an organic farm for over 35 years in Ha'ikū.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hold on, Mark.

MR. SHEEHAN: It is because I'm so concerned.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Lesley, let me know when it's ready.

MS. MILNER: It should be good to go.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, Mr. Sheehan --

MR. SHEEHAN: Okay. Hello?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --I'm going to unmute you and you can start again from the beginning.

MR. SHEEHAN: Okay. My name is Mark Sheehan, I live in Ha'ikū. I've been concerned with food security for over 40 years. Thirty-five years ago, I bought land and set up an organic farm on ten acres in Ha'ikū. Got a partner ten years ago and we have a full-time farm manager and five full-time farmers who are working on the land. We have hosted the farmer mentoring program for most of those years, all of those years, and it's been an extremely successful program. I want to point out that the Farm Bureau, the Farmers Union, the Farm Mentoring Program, the `Ohana Gardens, they are all important. We don't need the...the Farmers Union has a full plate as does the

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Farm Bureau. Food Security stepped in to really host an effort that was originally intended to try to acquire the central valley lands. When Mahi Pono took over those lands, we looked for what else we could do. And we came up with a project of the `Ohana Gardens. I grew up during the Second World War and I had one of those victory gardens in my backyard as did everybody on my street. And if we're concerned with, about food security, the current Coronavirus epidemic [sic] is here to remind us how fundamentally important it is, how remote we are, how food insecure we are. And with nations restricting the flow of goods now for all the reasons that are going...we know about, we are more food insecure than we have ever been. So, the greatest security that people can have is to grow as much as they possibly can in their own backyard. And the `ohana garden program which Food Security Hawai'i has set up--I happen to be the president of Food Security Hawai'i--is designed to reduce [sic] that food security and to give people something to do during this period where many of them are unemployed. And so, developing these backyard gardens will be of great importance, as is the training program for future farmers. And it's never...I've never had any relationship with the Farmers Union in that regard. I'm a member of the Farmers Union, they have other projects, but this program has always been sponsored by Phyllis Robinson and Georgia and has been extraordinarily successful. I support that they establish their own 501(c)(3), but in the interim I'm happy to bring them under our nonprofit so they can continue functioning. So, I want to encourage the Council to support this program, because the average age of farmer is, you know, as everybody knows is about 60 years old. We want those young farmers to get trained. It's extremely successful. I've had an opportunity to watch it firsthand on my farm --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mister...

MR. SHEEHAN: --where I've seen good people and they're still coming back and, you know, they're really...it's been extremely successful.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Sheehan.

MR. SHEEHAN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Next testifier is Katie Romanchuk, followed by Kyle Clarkin. Katie is 9 out of 65 testifiers. Please proceed, Ms. Romanchuk.

MS. ROMANCHUK: Okay. Hello. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. ROMANCHUK: Okay. Dear, Maui County Councilmembers, and thank you for all of your hard work, especially during these troubling times. I am Katie Romanchuk from Ha'ikū, Maui. Having worked on my six acres of land, Ohialani Gardens for almost 19 years, I have learned many things through trial and error with some outside help and research. I have been selling fruit on a small scale and working on a Native Hawaiian plant restoration project with help from an NRCS grant but mostly have been reclusive, not reaching out to share what I was doing, not really knowing how or

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having the confidence or courage. However, when I finally joined FAM, Farmers Apprentice and Mentoring Program for their fifth cohort last fall as an apprentice, my knowledge of farming increased manifold and my life has changed so much for the better. In February, I was invited by Georgia Pinsky and Dr. Phyllis Robinson to lead a farm tour for FAM at Ohialani, my land. I have had small groups a few times many years ago but nothing as formal or meaningful or large as this. I stepped out of my complacent and somewhat shy self and became a mentor and was able to share my dream of conservation and passion for nature which I feel is important for farmers to learn as stewards of the land. I got extremely positive feedback and people were touched and influenced. This was just the push I needed and feel I will be able to educate more people about Hawai'i's flora, watershed, and history and culture via native habitat thanks to the venue FAM Program has provided, particularly Phyllis and Georgia. They recognized the spark in me and realize the importance of Native Hawaiian habitat along with farming and allowed me this opportunity for which I am grateful and I hadn't had in other organizations I was involved with. I am thrilled to take my farm to new levels. I am surprised and pleased beyond my expectations with what this program would offer and the degree of depth and expansive material, variety of farming styles, methodologies, and curriculum we were covering. It has been unlike any other schooling or education program I have had while obtaining a college degree or other work-related training. Phyllis and Georgia are a dynamic team working seamlessly together and have refined this program into something that works, and have a gift for seeing the strengths in all of us, the apprentices, and helping us flourish. They have been available to answer every question or referred us. They have created a most supportive environment possible for learning how to be a farmer, to grow and bloom and have given us their all. When I heard that FAM...oh shoot, is that the bell?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. ROMANCHUK: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Romanchuk.

MS. ROMANCHUK: I have a little bit more but okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony.

MS. ROMANCHUK: Should I go on?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And you may submit that to edb.committee@mauicounty.us if you haven't.

MS. ROMANCHUK: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. ROMANCHUK: Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Next to testify is our tenth testifier, Kyle Clarkin, followed by Lee Louise Mackessy.

MR. CLARKIN: Aloha, Chair and Council. And mahalo nui loa for allowing us all this opportunity. It's so dearly important to all our hearts. I'm testifying on behalf of the FAM Program today which is turning into the Family Farmer Training Network for Maui. As you can tell, the students in this class we're already farmers. You know, small scale though it may be for some of us, we are some of these farmers in the trenches. There is such a need for programs like this. And there's very few of them out there, especially doing the caliber of work and putting together a curriculum to the extent that these ladies have put together and that the community members of our Maui have put their lives into this program to make it what it is. You know, Phyllis and Georgia, we have seen them day by day, night by night working so hard to give us this information, and the mentors that we have in this program are incredible people with just so much to teach. There's been so much energy and love and passion put into making this program what it is. So, I'm advocating for the Farming Apprentice Training Maui Network to be its own 501 nonprofit (c) and for it to, you know, be able to in the short...in...for now be funded under Food Sustainability Hawai'i. But yeah, you know, we are already farmers in the trenches and this program is going to make us successful. You know, I've already seen what it's done for my cohorts. And I want to point out there were a numerous amount of applicants, tens of applicants just this year that didn't get accepted into the program because of lack of funding or lack of space. And that is continually the case in the past from what I have heard and there are going to be fathoms more farmers, young and of all ages that want to be involved in this program because of how amazing and valuable the knowledge is. If we can be supporting this program and more like it, like GoFarm, very few, a very few special programs that these islands have that are doing this goal which is going to increase our food sustainability from 10 percent to at least 20 percent, right. We need Georgia and Phyllis doing what they're doing. Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Clarkin. Our next testifier is Lee Louise Mackessy, followed by Melissa Reickert. Ms. Mackessy?

MS. MACKESSY: I'm sorry...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please unmute yourself. Can you hear me?

MS. MACKESSY: Oh, there you go. Yes. . . .(inaudible). . . Mackessy and I'm a current...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(inaudible). . . yourself.

MS. MACKESSY: Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

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MS. MACKESSY: Sorry about that. I'm not sure what that was. I just wanted to say mahalo, County Council, for this opportunity. My name is Lee Louise Mackessy and I'm a current FAM student apprentice and live in Waiohuli ahupua`a in the Kula moku. On Sunday March 22nd I received a shocking e-mail from HFUU informing me that our beloved FAM Program managers, Dr. Phyllis Robinson and Georgia Pinsky were officially terminated. There was no explanation for the decision and no mention of having anyone to replace them and no assurance if our education could or would continue. The only thing that was clear is that safe to say we have completely come to rely on Phyllis and Georgia to provide their leadership and share their intimate and personal knowledge of regenerative farming community on Maui. They are obviously the only ones who have worked tirelessly to put together the highest quality education I have had the pleasure of being given. And I cannot adequately express in words how much this program has meant to me and I'm confident everyone else in the program. We are a family and Phyllis and Georgia are the matriarchs of our `ohana. We have all come to care for one another, and we don't want to lose the head of household at this critical time in the middle of our program. They have invested over 144 hours getting to know each and every one of us on a personal level, and they know exactly where each of us are in the learning process. They have all the knowledge and aware of the resources in our community to provide us with the customized apprenticeship program tailored to meet our individual, unique, personal weaknesses as well as our strengths. They have created a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a culture that absolutely no other replacement could recreate. There is no doubt I and many of my fellow students will need to call them long after the FAM Program has been completed, for guidance and referrals to our farming experts in our community. And I believe they have the vested interest in our community, in our class now and in the future. So, therefore I respectfully request that you reinstate Phyllis and Georgia as program managers. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Mackessy. Our next testifier is Melissa Reickert, followed by Mike McLean, and that's 12 out of 70.

MS. REICKERT: Okay. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. REICKERT: Okay, I'm having problems with my volume. Okay, do I have reverb or can you hear me clearly?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, you sound good. Please proceed.

MS. REICKERT: Okay, awesome. All right. Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. I'm really happy to be here and to be able to speak from my heart. My name is Melissa Reickert, I am a current member of the FAM Program Cohort 5, and I am testifying this morning with a sense of shock and urgency upon receiving an e-mail from Vincent Mina on March 21st. It's really taken me this long to wrap my head around what has been transpiring. But from what I understand, Phyllis Robinson and Georgia Pinsky have been released from their duties as the

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leaders of the FAM Program. I'm actually in utter disbelief. Simply stated, it is a tragic and misguided decision. I have developed the deepest respect and gratitude from the very first informational meeting that FAM held in October for both Phyllis and Georgia. They are incredible leaders, organizers...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just turned it on and it looks...

MS. REICKERT: Can you guys hear me?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And it looks like...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One moment, we'll mute him.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, I got...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think you should...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. I'll resume your three minutes.

MS. REICKERT: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please proceed.

MS. REICKERT: All right. Let's see, they are incredible organizers, mentors. I enrolled in the program mostly because of my interactions with them before I even fully grasped what the FAM program was. And now after four months of 8 to 15 hours each week with them, I am sure that the program's success is due to their leadership and influence. The two of them together form the perfect team. Their skills and personalities complement each other. Georgia is one of the most organized and efficient people I have ever encountered. Communication skills are what keep the program running smoothly. She responds to my every query within hours and goes out of her way to make sure that all the questions are answered and details are taken care of. Also, she's been through the program and really understands what is needed in order to fully grasp and integrate the material we as students are learning. In addition, she is a farmer and her love of the land, farming, and Hawaiian culture and practices has informed and deeply touched my classmates and me. And Phyllis, I don't even know where to start about Phyllis. All I can say is that FAM is so fortunate to have her at the helm. She is wise and compassionate and steers the group only like someone with years of teaching experience can. She understands group dynamics and created a sense of cohesion and family from day one. We call our group family in large part because of Phyllis and her leadership. I strongly believe that FAM or under the new name the Maui Family Farmer Training Network should be its own line item in the 2021 County Budget funded under Food Security Hawai'i. FAM is a gift to the community and I believe that Georgia and Phyllis should be at the helm as its leaders. Thank you very much.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Reickert. And I'll just ask, testifiers, when you've completed your testimony, if you'd like to join us on mauicounty.us/agendas to continue observing the meeting, I think that would be really helpful for us as we continue to move forward with testifiers. Mahalo. Okay, next to testify is Mr. Mike McLean, followed by Mr. Ruston Barczy.

MR. MCLEAN: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. MCLEAN: `O Mike ko`u inoa. No ahupua`a o Wailuku wai au. Firstly, I want to thank you, County Council, for supporting farmer education here in this County, it's so important, especially in these times. And thank you for supporting a program that is for regenerative farmers. And what that means is farmers who respect the soil, our topsoil so future generations can continue to grow an abundance of food and maintain the ability of future abundance. I am a young farmer. Many of my friends have completed FAM and they have all praised the positive leadership of Georgia Pinsky and Dr. Phyllis Robinson. I began working with FAM years ago as a volunteer to volunteer in video creation with them to support the program. And also I'm a volunteer on numerous farms, but I've always dreamt of starting my own farm business. And then Georgia Pinsky invited me to join this current cohort of farmers. It has been the most life improving decision for me as a would-be farmer. Georgia being born and raised on the island is highly connected to seemingly every farmer on the island and has been able to help Phyllis put together a brilliant team of the most impressively intelligent farmer mentors to level up all of us would-be farmers into business-savvy growers of healthy local produce. The farmers that Georgia and Phyllis got together to teach this program have been so very helpful for me in understanding every single aspect of my future farm business from water needs to irrigation know-how to seedling care to taking farm products to market and market it. And most importantly, about the local traditional cultural aspects of farming in a place with centuries of practices that led to enormous food abundance as well as using resources wisely. The FAM Program thus far has given me all the tools I need for farming for Maui County thanks to the leadership and vision of Georgia Pinsky and Dr. Phyllis Robinson. I absolutely cannot imagine the FAM Program's existence without Georgia and Phyllis. Their deeply rooted connections and enthusiasm for growing farmers, food security, and protecting our island's topsoil by facilitating an educational program based on regenerative farming has been a great service to our island and to future generations. In fact, as you may know in 2015 Phyllis was at the very first meeting to found the FAM Program, and she has been successfully supporting it and nurturing it to grow and improve ever since. From my years of experience with the FAM Program I have seen that the leadership presence of Georgia, the farmer and Phyllis, the educator, grant writer, and founder who not only got the funding for the FAM Program but got it in the farmers' hands to train farmers is absolutely essential to the program's efficacy. Being so inspired by the regenerative farmer education program put together by Georgia and Phyllis, I will continue to strongly support any future endeavors they choose to take in educating smart, enthusiastic, soil-protecting, regenerative farmers for these islands. I hope you will continue to support them as the majority of testifiers have and will do in these

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critical times to grow more farmers so we can grow more healthy food for these islands together while protecting our topsoil for future generations. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. McLean. Our next testifier is Ruston Barczy, followed by Marissa Lindsey.

MR. BARCZY: Aloha, Council. My name is Ruston Barczy. Can you hear me well? I'm --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. BARCZY: --coming from--thank you--from Hana moku, the ahupua`a of Maka`alaie. And testifying and resonating all of the fellow testifiers' message beseeching the real evaluation and consideration of our beautiful FAM, Farmers Apprentice and Mentorship Program and that it be really considered as an utmost important aspect to the food security of our beautiful island. And really have found such amazing insights into my family's farming project here on Hana side around Kaeleku. And I'm applying so much of the wisdom that has been so beautifully guided under the tutelage of Phyllis and Georgia, two powerfully passionate matriarchs in this community that really ought to be respected. And just want to again resonate with the deploring news that came when Vincent Mina sent us a very obscure e-mail saying that our beautiful guidance has been fired. So, just want to encourage the Council to really consider the importance of this program in giving it its own nonprofit entity and to really encourage you to see the validity of the message of all of us testifying on behalf of our beautiful mentors and guidance. And to again thank you for helping us sustain such a beautiful, important program for the island and all the people here. Mahalo nui loa.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Barczy. Next is our 15th testifier, Marissa Lindsey, followed by William "Bill" Greenleaf.

MS. LINDSEY: Aloha, Chair and board members. My name is Marissa Lindsey from Hana moku. I am an apprentice in the FAM Program, now called the Maui Family Farmer Training Network, Cohort 5 this year. Our cohort recently received an e-mail regarding the firing of Dr. Phyllis Robinson and Georgia Pinsky that has come as a great shock and disappointment to me. The program has been extremely impactful to me so far as I have a strong desire to pursue agriculture in Hawai'i but had no way to acquire the knowledge to do so seeing as that I do not have the finances to attend college at this time. In the four months of classes and on-farm sessions, I have already learned so much that has only deepened my passion for farming. Not only do I feel more confident in my new knowledge of how to pursue and sustain a regenerative farming principle, I am also more aware of the dire need for regenerative agriculture and food security in Hawai'i, especially during this time. All of this is because of the Maui Family Farmers Training Network and more specifically the work of Phyllis, Georgia, and the farmer mentors partnering with the program. The information and knowledge is already out there on the island. There are numerous brilliant farmers and business people making regenerative farms work, providing fresh and clean food to our communities; however, what makes the program and specifically Phyllis and Georgia so much more effective is the fact that Phyllis has created the

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program with her background in adult education and learning. All program participants have a million things going on in their lives so for the program to be designed specifically to work with our schedules and taught in ways that are more effective in knowledge absorption is pivotal. Throughout the months of participating in the program, I have seen firsthand how professional, organized, passionate, creative, and intentional both Phyllis and Georgia both are. They care deeply for the program and everyone who takes part, making sure everybody is getting the most out of the experience. They know the curriculum inside and out, constantly editing and adding things that will be beneficial to apprentices. Not once have I seen the presence of HFUU in the program which is why it is so shocking to imagine the program carrying on under HFUU and without Phyllis and Georgia who have put countless hours into the development of a successful and impactful program. The Maui Family Farmers Training Network would not be so effective without the two of them. They are intentional about making the curriculum work within our busy adult schedules, curating experiences that have been life changing for me while I and many others simultaneously pursue our own farming endeavors. Phyllis and Georgia have been running the program, inspiring, supporting, and creating a solid foundation for new farmers on Maui, and I believe that they are entirely capable of doing this...of continuing this program without the involvement of HFUU and therefore the program should be its own entity funded under Food Security Hawai'i. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Lindsey. Next we have William "Bill" Greenleaf, followed by Toni Marie Davis. If you'll please unmute yourself and you may proceed with your testimony.

MR. GREENLEAF: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. GREENLEAF: Aloha, Councilmembers. So, I want to give a little history on the FAM Program and on Farmers Union. In 2004, my wife and I started Greenleaf Farm for food security, and by 2005, we were selling at the Eddie Tam market. And every week, multiple people would come up to me just thrilled with what we were selling and then telling me we should have more farmers markets. And my response was always we need more farmers, we have to grow farmers. And as that conversation continued, I thought about how to grow farmers and I realized it was always something that passed down from father to son, grandfather, father, son, and we needed a program where people would be mentored. So, this was really my idea. And I'm a PGA [sic] member, we're apprentices before we're members and we get trained, hands-on training. So, it does my heart so much good to hear all the wonderful passion and hope that's been developed by this program. I couldn't have imagined ever anything so great. I was the president of the Haleakalā Chapter as I continued working on this, and I realized there was nobody...that was the Maui Farmers Union really at that point, HFUU didn't even exist. I realized there was nobody that had the time to run the program and we needed funds. And I, in my times at the Council, I heard Dr. Robinson testifying she was running the axis deer program trying to set up mobile slaughterhouses to help

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the, deal with the invasive species and bring some income. I just loved what I heard, she was so organized. And I met her one night and talked to her for a couple hours about the FAM Program, and I basically recruited her. And it's...she hit the ground running. Her, I was amazed at her background. She...her curriculum background, and so what I want to say next is that program that began, Dr. Robinson and I went around to all the different Councilmembers and we got a \$25,000 grant and that's how it started. It really had nothing to do with the Farmers Union. This was outside the Farmers Union because the Farmers Union was trying to grow and become a Statewide organization. So, it's a long story but fast forward and we see the program's going, we're working through Tri-Isle and Tri-Isle is, was the fiscal sponsor for three years. There was no input from Farmers Union during those years, no overseeing, and then Tri-Isle went out of business so Farmers Union stepped up to be the 501(c)(3). And as I read fiscal sponsor agreements, if it's a preapproved agreement, the fiscal sponsor has no ownership in the program. So, the firing this year of Phyllis and Georgia seems completely wrong to me. Anyway, please support this program, you hear the passion. It's...and that's the history of it, that's how it started, and this is an abomination. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Greenleaf. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Greenleaf.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair, I have a question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Committee Vice-Chair King? Clarifying question?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Just...yeah, no, I just wanted to ask you if we could have Mr. Greenleaf kind of on standby for, when we get to this item since he was the founder of this program?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. GREENLEAF: Happy to be.

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

MR. GREENLEAF: What do I need to do?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Hang in there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please e-mail your contact information to edb.committee@mauicounty.us.

MR. GREENLEAF: Will do. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay, next we have Toni Marie Davis, followed by John?

MS. DAVIS: Aloha. Thank you so much --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. DAVIS: --Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-King [sic] King, and Committee members. I'm going to switch gears a little bit. Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify. My name is Toni Marie Davis and it's been my honor to collectively market and lobby on behalf of the State's activities and attractions and protect consumers for the past 23 years. Ninety percent of these small businesses are Hawai'i residents, not...unlike the larger hotels or rent-a-cars or airlines, and their profits stay within this State and the counties which they reside. Our members represent a workforce of over 4,500 workers, and I'm sure as you know unemployment is at 300 percent. A hundred percent of all of these companies are closed. I really applaud the State and the County government for the impeccable management that they had during this crisis, but until one of the following occurs our islands are closed to visitors: vaccination is developed and widely available; Covid spread is completely contained; or a rapid same-day antigen test become available to prescreen travelers. The University of Hawai'i's Economic Research Organization published a brief on restarting our economy on April 3rd. It's a really great report, I encourage you all to read it. Their pessimistic forecast is for Hawai'i's tourism to restart in 12-to-18 months. That's going to be really, really hard for our islands. Their pessimistic forecast is for Hawai'i's tourism to restart this summer provided two necessary conditions are met. First and foremost is that Hawai'i residents know tourists are virus free, we can't have people coming here infected. And the second is that potential tourists perceive Hawai'i as a safe place to visit. The first condition may be satisfied by an Abbott labs who is currently rolling out an antigen test that provides results within 5 to 15 minutes, and this could be administered at airports and cruise ships before people depart for Hawai'i. It's a huge blessing and gives hope for our industry. But the second part is, has to do with marketing and PR. So, the big part of my testimony is really please support MVB's budget item. I know you might not think that that's something that needs to be done, but we are all in this together, and another significant challenge, it's going to make it even harder is that many of the people that vacation here, you know, we're a high-cost destination, especially Maui. And many of the households have experienced considerable reductions in income and wealth, and the restart of our economy, it's not going to be easy. So, I urge you again to support actually anything related to our industry. It's really concerning to me...I mean things that motivate people, there's pretty much two motivators. You either get people to be divisive with each other which is really, really damaging or you bring people together. So, I just urge you to do things that bring our community together. And I love this, thank you so much. Aloha. I'm going to go on the other side and continue watching.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wait, wait, wait.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh okay, there's a question. Member Paltin?

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MS. DAVIS: Oh, I need to turn up my volume 'cause I turned it down. Hold on, I can't hear you. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not a question, as tourism is one of the items we're discussing later on, can she be a resource if she wants to?

MS. DAVIS: Sure, sure. I actually, I e-mailed you already the testimony that I gave, I changed it a little bit but my phone number is all there. I e-mailed it this morning. Thanks...

MR. GREENLEAF: I don't know, I'm not listening. She's talking about something else I think. This isn't only about this one subject.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can you please mute yourself, Bill?

MS. DAVIS: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can all hear you.

MS. DAVIS: I'll be available. I have not a lot to do.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Davis.

MS. DAVIS: So, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay, seeing no other questions, we'll move on to our next testifier. Tara Grace, followed by Charlotte O'Brien.

MS. GRACE: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. GRACE: It is...I'm here testifying on behalf of the Food Security Hawai'i line item as a board member. After hearing what I've been hearing this morning, I am so honored to adopt the formerly known FAM Program, formerly known as the FAM Program. If changing a name is what it takes to help Farmers Union keep the FAM Program name and drop the lawsuit, that would be a wonderful day in Hawai'i, because as I can see by and hear by all the FAM graduates and interns, wow, it's exactly what the island needs and Food Security Hawai'i is truly honored to have them onboard. We have a line item with the 'Ohana Gardens and that is to also work together with future farmers here and already existing graduates of the farm training program. And so, we would love to work with them and enhance the 'Ohana Gardens which is a takeoff of the victory gardens from days' past. And we're really excited and collaborating with many other folks around the island that want to be a part of it and support resources

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and networking and teachers and mentors. It's one big `ohana in the name of food security, and we're really honored to play that role, and we hope the County boosts and adds zeroes to all the ag programs so that, you know, the FAM Program with the Farmers Union can flourish as well. We need all the farmers the island can handle. So, we need what the frogs and the ants get, \$500,000 in the budget so there's enough to go around and reduce the squabbles in the ag community. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Grace. The next testifier is Charlotte O'Brien, followed by Kanani Higbee.

MS. O'BRIEN: Oh great. Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. O'Brien, please unmute yourself.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah, I did. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Please proceed.

MS. O'BRIEN: And good morning, Chair and County --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning.

MS. O'BRIEN: --Councilmembers. My name is Charlotte O'Brien, I'm the Executive Director of Food Security Hawai'i. I am very sad that I need to speak to you today. I have a great deal of respect for what HFUU has accomplished and find it unfortunate that they feel the need to lower themselves to these very questionable tactics. As you can see from their own e-mails, Dr. Robinson from the beginning was transparent and upfront with her request to spin off the FAM Program that she singlehandedly developed into the prize that it is today. When Dr. Robinson was in the middle of negotiations with the officers of HFUU, she came to the board of Food Security Hawai'i to ask if we could be her interim fiscal sponsor until the transition was complete. The board voted unanimously to support her. Why should that simple offer of help to a woman who has done an amazing job while going through cancer, chemotherapy, back surgery, hip surgery, and who knows what else, create such a violent attack on our organization? Food Security of Hawai'i is simply trying to do good in the community at this time with an unprecedented pandemic. This attack has forced me to also question and in my questioning I found that HFUU's 2018 990 does not mention FAM or show any income for FAM. While naming six employees and their earnings, they never mention that Dr. Robinson is on the payroll. They failed to register FAM as a subsidiary with the State of Hawai'i and never claimed the trademark. They are delinquent in registering their 2018 taxes with the Attorney General's Charities Division. They were initially denied their tax-free status with the IRS and upon a new submittal were granted a 501(c)(5), and in the letter it clearly states that does not allow them to receive tax-free donations. This alone made growing the FAM Program without community contributions more difficult for Dr. Robinson. When something as important as the ownership of the FAM Program has become contentious, it is only

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right to go to mediation. Clearly, there is much to assess in this issue before the Council. I wish the Councilmembers wisdom. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. O'Brien.

MS. O'BRIEN: Pardon me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Next is Kanani Higbee, followed by Keali'i Reichel.

MS. HIGBEE: Aloha. My name is Kanani Higbee. I am a parent leader and I would like to testify about three items: agricultural education, Summer PALS, and Hawaiian Homes. I would like to testify on behalf of my daughters, my daughter Kahealani Garcia is the Vice-President of Future Farmers of America. My other daughter Sonia Garcia is a member of FFA, Lahainaluna Chapter as well. I work for the Hawai'i Department of Education. My children are interested in careers in agriculture; however, the County does not support agriculture education much. Since I work for Hawai'i DOE, I know the County of Maui gives Maui high schools over a million dollars in grant money to push them to work in the visitor industry. I would appreciate if that kind of money would be given to agriculture education in high schools too. Also, my daughter Kahealani Garcia and myself have both worked for Winter PALS and Summer PALS. Not many people are interested in working there because the wages are too low. The wages for workers need to be raised. In West Maui, there is a severe shortage of workers for Summer PALS that they have to give workers more work. My daughter was an aide but she had to do leader duties. She's, she was only 16 and she had to care for a class of first graders as a leader when usually that's for somebody who's an adult, not a minor. Also, sometimes Lahaina can only open one school site and not two because they lose workers to competition. Starbucks pays \$15 an hour, Ross pays \$15 an hour, Summer PALS pays 10.75 to start so parents lose out by not having quality care for their children. Just to give some perspective, the Parks and Recreation Director gets paid six figures, over \$130,000 so that Department is too top heavy. Please take care of the bread and butter. The whole purpose of, you know, that Department is to take care of the community, and how are we when we can't have childcare, you know, like summer care for the kids? And lastly . . . *(inaudible)* . . . of Hawaiian Homes. My mom has been on the list for 35 years. I've been on the list for 15 years, so have my 3 siblings. Our grandpa died on the list. Our neighbors drop like flies on the list. We just lost another neighbor on the list. There are 28,000 Native Hawaiians on that list. The County approves constructions of homes that are not Hawaiian homes. The County finds a way to pay for infrastructure for these homes that are not Hawaiian homes but drops the ball on Hawaiian homes. What it comes down to is the County could help build Hawaiian homes but chooses not to. Thank you for listening to my testimony. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Higbee.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony today.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Committee Vice-Chair King, clarifying question?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, I just have a really quick question. Thank you so much, Kanani, for being here and for advocating for agriculture education. I just want to ask you if you know the Future Farmers Program gets any County funding at all right now?

MS. HIGBEE: No. I mean I just heard about this budget meeting today so I wasn't able to do very much homework. I know my child tries to raise so much money, they're always doing fundraisers because they hardly have any money. They actually --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. HIGBEE: --traveled to --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for your response.

MS. HIGBEE: --the State's...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think you answered Member King's question.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you for being here. Thank you for coming.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. HIGBEE: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Next testifier is Keali'i Reichel, followed by Joseph Kohn. Please unmute yourself, Mr. Reichel.

MR. REICHEL: Hi. Mahalo. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. REICHEL: Can you hear me? Aloha kākou, esteemed Chair and County Councilmembers. Mahalo for the opportunity to come before you to testify on behalf of our hālau, to request County support to help build our hālau cultural resource center on four acres of land donated to us by Hōkūnui LLC. I have been the Kumu Hula of Hālau Ke'alaokamaile for the past 40 years, and over the years we've taught hundreds of students from all demographics across our island home. Our hope has always been that we were, are, and continue to be a cultural force in our community that is really ever evolving. It's also important to remember that hula and chant and its related practices are all environmentally and `āina based. With that said, I think it important that I help expand consciousness on what exactly a hālau is. That's why I'm here today and how our hālau has evolved beyond what is generally believed to be just hula

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and chants. Yeah. Our mission statement is to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture, tradition, and heritage through its arts, beliefs, dance, language, and agriculture. Over the past several years, we have expanded our teaching and outreach programs to include traditional agriculture, expound on cultural environmental kinship, and to lessen the impact on our forests by growing cultural crops and food crops. Through our various agriculture and agroforestry grants from the State and Federal level, we have thus far impacted over 4,000 participants across our island. From hālau to preschools, public and private schools, senior citizen centers, as well as various business groups, they're all taught the importance of a sense of place and learn how to ignite their relationship to the land and environment through chant, protocol, and hands-on work. For me, you know, what better way especially for children to be able to call upon the wind and the trees and the soils and microbes through chant and through their leo and call them tūtū and call them kūpuna. Their relationship with the elements becomes internalized and the lens in which they view their environment becomes a very, very personal one. This is how we have evolved as a hālau. Because we have no physical building to do this which is the crux of my testimony today, we construct tents on the property every month which is fine, we conduct classes in chant, ceremony, moon phase planting, beginning farmers' classes, crop processing where they learn everything I just stated as well as business planning, small engine repair, irrigation design, marketing, and health practices. The list goes on and on and on. With that said, I know that the challenges of Covid-19 has changed our community at large, but we must remember to . . .*(inaudible)*. . . when it comes to cultural education. For me, this is our home, this is our culture, we must persevere and that unto itself for me and for my students and those who we impact through our programs at Hōkūnui is yet another lesson that we hope to teach. And I know the late uncle Harry Mitchell from Keanae always said or once said "if you want to learn about Hawaiian culture, go join a hālau" because through hālau you learn internally and externally language, history, culture, hands-on how to call upon the elements through the movement of our hands and the speaking of our voices. And it's no longer anymore in this day and age where a hālau is just hula and chant. And so, for us we hope that we can expand our programs with County kōkua and County support in whatever way and whatever fashion they can. So, mahalo a nui. I think that's all I have to say for right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo a nui for your testimony. Member Paltin has asked if you would serve as a resource, so if you could please send over your contact information to edb.committee@mauicounty.us, we will contact you when your item is up on the agenda. Committee Vice-Chair King, clarifying question?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, clarifying question. Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to clarify, is the Hōkūnui that you're talking about, that's Hōkū Nui Farms? Mr. Reichel?

MR. REICHEL: Yes. Yes, it is.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, that's the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . farm. And then the other question I have is the facility is open to the whole island, the whole County?

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MR. REICHEL: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: If people...

MR. REICHEL: Absolutely. We've...that's why...yeah, they can come in. Because what we hope to do is expand our programming to...so that right now with every hālau on this island, we are beholden to schedules of people's...the facility. And so, for something like this, we can do it 24/7, we can open when we want, we can do all of the things that we want to do on a much bigger scale.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you. Sign me up. Sign me up.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Reichel. Member Sugimura --

MR. REICHEL: Mahalo a nui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --question? Okay. Okay, mahalo a nui. Next testifier is Joseph Kohn, followed by phone number 281-3122, Grace. Mr. Kohn, if you'll please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

MR. KOHN: Aloha, Chair and Committee Members and Maui `ohana. It's a pleasure to be here and observe and make a few comments on here in support of sustainable self-sufficiency on Maui in every form possible and in the least toxic and healthiest ways possible. I want to express gratitude for everyone standing up for protecting this population, and I'm looking forward to things getting back to even better than it was before. Otherwise, I don't have any specific testimony. Thank you very much for all the good works. Aloha. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Kohn, for your testimony. Next testifier is Grace, followed by Scott Lacasse. Phone number 281-3122 please proceed. Grace? Grace? Okay, we can hear you.

MS. PRETRE: Aloha. This is Grace --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. PRETRE: --Pretre. Aloha. Can you all hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Will you please repeat your last name?

MS. PRETRE: Pretre, P-R-E-T-R-E. Grace Pretre.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. PRETRE: Aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and the whole member of the Committee. I'm really grateful that we all get to share today and I appreciate you hearing all of us. And I'm also here to testify on behalf of the FAM Program which has been really life

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changing and beautiful for me. I'm a 30-year Maui resident. I recently purchased a farm in Hana, in the ahupua`a as Kaeleku, and my plan is to grow all sorts of food for our community and contribute to the food security of Hawai'i, as well as protecting bees and native habitat, the native culture, as well as creating some medicinal...growing medicinal herbs on my farm as part of my plan. So, the FAM Program has been essential for me because I don't know that much about farming and I'm a new farmer. The program is amazingly put together by Phyllis and Georgia and they have done such a great job. And I too can say that as far as I've seen, HFUU has had no involvement in the program. I didn't even know that they would think that it's their program. And I was very shocked to receive the e-mail from Vincent Mina about the termination of Georgia and Phyllis, heartbreaking truly right at a time when we actually need to continue to learn how to farm and to make our island sustainable here and add to the food security. So, many things have been said. For me it's really been very sad to see that somehow money is controlling things once again and that somehow the people who are doing good work with a good heart, with so much wisdom and knowledge, who have been in the community so long are being fired and threatened with a lawsuit, that is unbelievable and I'm just...I can't believe this is happening. So, I am all for the Maui Family Farmer Training Network to become its own 501(c)(3) to be fully funded, to please fund this program as its own line item and independent from HFUU. And I appreciate your help with this. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Pretre. Next testifier is Scott Lacasse, followed by --

MR. LACASSE: Yes, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --Irene Plunkett.

MR. LACASSE: Yeah, Lacasse. That's very good. Thank you. First of all, I'd like to thank the Council for supporting the Maui Farm to School Network throughout this past year. The line item funds allocated to our organization have been instrumental in helping us effectively engage the children and other organizations within Maui County. As part of Grow Some Good, Maui Farm to School Network is doing important work that will help provide Maui's keiki with fresh nutritious produce during this crisis. Even in the best of times, one in five children in Maui County is at risk of going hungry which is a 62 percent increase over the last decade. As the economic impact of Covid-19 increases the number of people in desperate need of food, we can most certainly expect that amount to drastically rise throughout the next year. Our State's reliance on imported food makes us particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and global events that might disrupt shipping in the food supply. Additionally, the spread of Covid-19 has identified the flaws in our just-in-time delivery systems. We must envision and create improved food supply and value chains structured in a way that promotes food security, self-sufficiency, and overall resilience in our current food system. One strategy of this redesign includes boosting the amount of locally grown staple food such as kalo, `uala, and ulu. The success of this design will require State support, innovation, the collaboration between farmers, processors, and marketers, and increased consumer awareness and demand. Maui Farm to School Network

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envisions school gardens across Maui as being necessary tools in fighting hunger in our community. This week our organization received and planted in our school gardens over 175 kalo huli donated by Hoaloha Farms. Local kalo farmers across the community have promised more huli, and as we increase our capacity, school gardens will play a vital role in achieving Governor Ige's call to double local food production. We have the land, we have the infrastructure, and the knowledgeable and passionate staff to execute. We respectfully request continued funding to educate students remotely while at the same time propagating, harvesting, and distributing the bounty to those in need. As you develop the budget during these challenging and unprecedented times, the Maui Farm to School Network respectfully asks that you prioritize policies and programs that will help Maui County increase the production of local staple crops at various scales, from the backyard and school mālas to diversified commercial farms. I look forward to continuing our relationship with the County as we work together to increase food security in Maui. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Lacasse. Our next testifier is testifier 26 out of 75, Irene Plunkett Mina, Hawai'i Farmers Union, followed by Kathy Becklin.

MS. MINA: Aloha kākou, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Councilmembers. My name is Irene Plunkett Mina, born and raised in ʻIao Valley. My husband Vincent Mina and ʻohana currently grow food for our family farm, on our family farm for 26 years. In 1994, I was pregnant with our second child. Vincent and I always had a garden to grow our food. With the love for growing our food and the love of aloha ʻāina, Vincent would seek to find a job working the land. Little did we know that inside my tummy grew the miracle of where we are today making a living on farming. You see, that baby that was growing inside of me gave me the craving to eat what we grow today for community. Kahanulani became the very seed that grew HFUU. In 1994, the birth of our baby, our family farm sprouted Kahanu ʻAina Greens LLC. In 1998, Vincent Mina was the President of Hawai'i Organic Farmers Association. With County funding, we developed the first body and health conference, soil conference on farms. Throughout that time, Maui Aloha ʻĀina has always been an education or outreach organization producing farm conferences, health conferences, body conferences throughout those years. Through these MAA conferences in 2009, Hawai'i Farmers Union became an idea, Vincent wanted to develop a chapter on Maui and in 2010 the Farmers Union was formed. Through those years up to 2013, MAA and Hawai'i Farmers Union were holding educational workshops, lectures, seminars, workdays, potlucks, monthly gatherings, and conferences, for our family farmers and community wanted to take their farm to the next level. All of this while we were farming. Farming has inspired us to do more for community. It has been a hardworking journey and the love of our community and passion for our family farms that drove us to the very best of who we are. In 2012, Vincent became HFUU's State President, 2013 MAA ended our last conference as we focused more on the HFUU. You know, as a local farmer here, you know, nobody likes to do the hard work. There's 26 years, there's history of 10 years for Hawai'i Farmers Union. You know, the hard work that the farmers had done prior to bring the FAM Program. So, the FAM Program is not Ms. Robinson's or anybody's to take, it is the Hawai'i Farmers' program. We have leadership in place that can follow the work. Okay. Because we know that people like to ride on the coattails of

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things that have started. And nobody likes to do the hard work. Twenty-six years, born and raised here, we love this island. If you folks just go and look at the Hawai'i sovereignty, you know, the group that you guys wanted to give it to. Look at who they are, we all know where this is going, folks. Come on, come on. Stop playing a small game. I'm just so passionate about what we do for community and we have a record. Please, please I beg all of you do not take anything, you know, try it out first. Don't give it to anybody that says food sovereignty. Where have they been? They don't even donate one piece of fruit to our conventions for ten years. I'm so, you know, I'm passionate about what we do. People think that, you know, there's...everything just happens overnight, no it doesn't, Hawai'i does not happen like that. Twenty-six years...*(inaudible)*... So, please. Thank you for supporting Hawai'i Farmers Union. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Plunkett Mina. Our next testifier is Kathy Becklin, followed by David Fisher.

MS. BECKLIN: Aloha, Councilmembers. Mahalo for your efforts throughout this challenging time and of course for your continued support of school gardens on Maui. I'm Kathy Becklin, the Executive Director for Grow Some Good. We run the Maui Farm to School Network that supports 35 schools and about 8,000 students each year in grades K through 12. We create garden-based education experience that connect Maui's keiki to their food, environment, and culture. This year we experienced one of the strongest indicators possible that our program is working. We've been supporting school gardens for 11 years. Those kids from the schools where we provided a comprehensive grade-appropriate garden program in grades K through 8, those kids that started as kindergarteners now have entered Maui High School and so many have enrolled in agricultural CTE program, they had to hire additional teacher, a 63 percent increase in 1 year. Now, when you go to the hardware stores, there are no seeds, starts, or potting mix left. Though we can't claim complete credit, I've seen enough social posts to know that our students are out there encouraging and teaching their parents to grow food. Through our garden programs they understand how we need to value our 'āina to feed ourselves. They learn science, environment life cycles, and nutrition. Our lessons in schools have stopped with Coronavirus. Our staff is working to prepare online lessons, strengthening our infrastructure for volunteers and community outreach, and enhancing our cultural curriculum. However, we are most excited about continuing to grow food on the campuses and in our backyards to make it available to the families in need. We are a small organization that can shift quickly. Our mission is to cultivate a healthy community by strengthening local agriculture and improving access to nutritious, affordable food. Help us continue to do this with the line item for \$100,000 as proposed by the Mayor.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Becklin. Our 28th testifier is David Fisher, followed by Autumn Ness.

MR. FISHER: Thank you, Chairman Rawlins-Fernandez and Budget Committee Members. My name is David Fisher. Some of you may know me from the 19 years I served as the Director of the Maui Small Business Development Center at the Tech Park which I

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helped open in 1990. In the last ten years, my work has focused on helping farmers and other food system . . . *(bell ringing)* . . . companies with planning and fundraising. I think that was the prior bell, right? Anyway --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. FISHER: --this has included writing the first business plan for the Farmers Union that was used to raise its first startup grant in 2014. Shortly before this, I was on the board for several months of what is currently the Haleakala Chapter, originally led by Vincent Mina, but then when he went on to take on the Statewide presidency and grow the organization which he's done magnificently, Bill Greenleaf replaced Vincent as the Maui Chapter president. Interestingly enough, Kelly King was on the board at that time and later Phyllis Robinson. And when we were...and this is when some of the brainstorming happened with the training program. The...I put input into the first proposal about a year later in 2015, which received County funding in 2016 and, you know, this is largely due to the leadership network and credibility of both the Hawai'i Farmers Union and National Farmers Union. In 2017, I taught the regenerative business development course as a 12-week webinar which included both FAM mentors, apprentices, and other commercial farmers both on Maui, Statewide, and we had guest speakers like Teena Rasmussen who was one of our best speakers I have to say, and leaders nationally. We were using webinars, we were able to bring people from all over. What's becoming clear from the testimony today and from the information that's coming out in the last hours and on reflecting upon what I've seen over the last five years, it seems that there's been an multiyear campaign, maybe even going back to 2014 led by a small group, and frankly it seems like they're trying to undermine and discredit, probably not intentionally, but discredit Vince and the Farmers Union and is coming to a head at this time when many non-hobby farmers are fighting for their lives. I only heard about this proposal to move the FAM Program and this hearing in the last few days by working 8-hour...18-hour days on responses to help existing farmers both individually and collectively. Right now, I'm just angry and respectfully to request time to prepare more thoughtful and constructive comments at a later date. There's another side to the story which you have not heard. And I will say...but I will say that collaboration is critical for creating viable food sustainability. Successful collaboration requires discipline, developing consensus, and sticking to the plan. And it takes time as Irene Mina said. Doing your own thing irrespective of the larger group is not collaboration. Not everyone is suited for collaboration. Well anyway, this is the time when we might be able to take collaboration more seriously. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Fisher. And you can e-mail your testimony to edb.committee@mauicounty.us.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

MR. FISHER: Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair, just a quick question.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Committee Vice-Chair King, a clarifying question.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, I just wanted to clarify the statement about me being on the board, because I was not on the board at the time that HFUU...I was on the board of the Maui Farmers Union well before any of the chapters were created or HFUU.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Okay, our next testifier is our 29th testifier, Autumn Ness, followed by Warren Watanabe. Please unmute yourself, Ms. Ness.

MS. NESS: Okay. Aloha. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. NESS: Okay. So, my name is Autumn Ness, I'm the Hawai'i Program Director for Beyond Pesticides, and I am here to . . . *(inaudible)* . . . and argue that if there's money to be put into growing any industry in this next fiscal year, that that industry should be local agriculture and food distribution and not particularly tourism. Our visitors industry doesn't need PR, even in a pandemic. Some people have gone to this view that since our industry is hurting right now, we need to dump more money into its PR, but I challenge you to think bigger and beyond that. Visitors aren't coming right now because they physically can't, PR is not going to fix that. And when the gates are open again, there may not be this huge influx back of tourists, but that's not a PR problem, that's going to be a worldwide recession problem. And some people argue that decreased numbers and quality over quantity might actually be a good thing for the community and the environment. This is even more reason to grow our agriculture sector, plus if the global recession isn't as bad as we think it might be, visitors are going to come back to Maui period. Right now you can buy uber cheap roundtrip tickets to Maui with open-ended dates. You can pay for them now, \$300 from anywhere on the mainland, and you can choose your date anytime in the next year and they're selling fast. Tourism is going to be fine. But if we are going to learn anything from this crisis, it's that we have to put large resources into diversifying our economy and expanding local food production and distribution systems. I argue that MVB should get no more than a million dollars, and I can answer questions about how their response to both this and the hurricane and fire crises have been less than exemplary, and that's why I argue that they shouldn't get as much money. And I think that the other 2.5 million should be put into agriculture and food distribution systems and infrastructure. I think that the best way to do this is micro grants through MEO that would fund infrastructure directly that would allow farmers to scale up their production. Right now in this crisis, this community is already neck deep in making the next step forward for farming and food distribution happening. It's happening right now. Food aggregation and distribution systems are about to be rolled out to streamline the purchasing and consumer distribution of local produce so farmers can concentrate more on farming. A quick assessment of a wide range of farmers tell us that in many cases if the hub handles the purchasing, aggregating, distribution, and sales, the farmer will have another one to three days on the farm and in many cases with their current infrastructure, can scale up their production as is.

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In some cases with a bit more infrastructure, they can scale up even more. That means when our visitor industry does come back online, they'll have enough to supply consumers and our hotels and restaurants, and we could effectively double our food production. Federal programs that are available to fund this kind of thing are really wonky and they're hard to navigate, and many of our vital farmers do not qualify for that aid for various reasons. And State programs are mostly tax credits, so if you want to get serious about taking control locally of our local food production . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Can I just finish this one sentence please?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. NESS: We need to put our money where our mouth is and put a large chunk of money into ag infrastructure that supports our farmers. And I'm not talking about loans 'cause our farmers don't need to go into any more debt. When we give money to MVB it's a grant, an investment into jobs and economy, and I think that we should do the same for our farmers and infrastructure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Ness. We've received a request from Member Paltin to designate you as a resource. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: A quick clarification question, Chair. Just, Ms. Ness, is there...how are you expecting to get those funding to small farmers?

MS. NESS: I think...I can answer this now or during resource time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you think you can answer it in two sentences, please proceed. If not, we --

MS. NESS: Sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --can...okay.

MS. NESS: I'll do it in two sentences and we can expand later. So, I think that we should just cut out the middle man here and give micro grants. I work in the micro grant, micro lending field all over and they work. Micro grants to farmers to pay for things like irrigation, fridge, those kinds of things on their farms that would allow them to do their job better and that they're not loans. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ness. Mahalo, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo.

MS. NESS: You know not through a third-party organization.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ness. Please e-mail your contact information to edb.committee@mauicounty.us. Mahalo.

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MS. NESS: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, our next testifier is Warren Watanabe, followed by Teena Rasmussen. Mr. Watanabe? We can check in with Mr. Watanabe after, see if he's there. Okay. Teena Rasmussen, followed by Marty Martin. Ms. Rasmussen, please unmute yourself.

MS. RASMUSSEN: This is Teena Rasmussen, can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. RASMUSSEN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please go ahead.

MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Members of the Committee. I am Teena Rasmussen and I'm testifying today as the current elected President of the Maui County Farm Bureau. We too have grave concerns about how our economy will emerge from the repercussions of the Covid crisis. That being said, all funds designated for economic development in this year's County budget are going to be needed now probably more than ever before in our County history. The funds that have been designated for the Maui County Farm Bureau will provide a myriad of activities, programs, and assistance to help our current farmers become profitable, encourage and inspire our next generation of farmers, create access and training to new technologies that can give farmers tools to become more efficient. This year, we received a grant to do a comprehensive strategic planning process for our organization, and next year we will be looking at implementing the recommendations from that plan. In the interim while all that is taking place, we are reinvigorating our committees, establishing a monthly e-newsletter, overhauling our website to be mobile friendly with up-to-date information. We'll be planning a series of workshops to help farmers learn what their breakeven costs are and offer training on how to negotiate with wholesalers for fair prices for their products. We are looking at every activity and program we have been doing year after year to make sure they are still relevant to our farmers. We will be offering more services to each of our commodity groups which consists of the Maui Coffee Association, the Maui Onion Growers, the Maui Cattlemen's Association, the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals. We will continue managing the vacuum cooling plant and will produce Ag Fest 4-H Livestock Fair in 2021. In simple terms, the Maui County Farm Bureau is going through a vigorous overhaul and will emerge as a 21st Century organization that will serve as the go-to information and resource hub for all agriculture entities in the County. Our membership is open to all farmers regardless of their methods of farming. This is a very fragile time for our farmers. The Maui County Farm Bureau has been there for our members through both lean and profitable times, but we know we are needed more than ever now. We also know these funds are entrusted to us by the taxpayers in Maui County. We will use this grant judiciously to reinvigorate our agriculture sector and do our part to work on diversification of our economy. We urge your support for the \$375,000 line item for the Maui County Farm Bureau. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Rasmussen. The next testifier is Marty Martin, followed by Triston Rodrigues, and that's 33 out of 77.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chair?

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just...so I got a text from Warren Watanabe, I think you called him and he was trying to unmute himself and didn't do it on time so he's ready when you are.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We can take Mr. Watanabe now. Mr. Watanabe, can you hear me?

MR. WATANABE: Hi. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Please proceed.

MR. WATANABE: Okay. Okay, thank you. Good morning, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair King, and Members of the Committee. I'm Warren Watanabe...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think...Mr. Watanabe, can you hear me?

MR. WATANABE: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. WATANABE: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please proceed.

MR. WATANABE: Okay, thank you. On behalf of our industry, I would like to extend our appreciation for the many years of County support provided to our farmers and ranchers. This Covid-19 pandemic illustrates the fragility of our industry. We appreciate the emergency support we have received to roll out the farm product purchase program to purchase locally grown produce and let the County distribute it to families in need due to having lost their jobs. The farms have been grateful to receive produce orders during this time, and they appreciate that agriculture enterprises have been deemed essential so they can get into their fields to maintain their crops. Nevertheless, the effects of the closure of restaurants and hotels has caused a devastating loss of markets for our farmers. Our members are making difficult decisions as they transition their operations to survival mode, cutting back on expenses where they can, laying off workers, hoping the economy will return before they run out of cash. We are serving our members by gathering and distributing information on Federal, State, and County assistance programs. The importance of producing food on our own island has become paramount as we experience

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...*(inaudible)*... We know farming is difficult enough in a normal economy. Our farms must navigate higher costs to do business, costly access to the O`ahu market, shortage of field labor, and regulatory requirements that are difficult to navigate. And yet our farmers are eternal optimists, they keep planting, hoping for better days and our farmers are like, just like that. The Maui County Farm Bureau is here to work on all of these issues and many more on behalf of our members. We partner with the University of Hawai`i CTAHR, the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture, NRCS, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 4-H, Farm Service Agency, the Hawai`i Agricultural Foundation, and the Hawai`i Farm Bureau to name a few. Our farmers and ranchers turn to us for help, and we want to manage...and we want to maintain a strong organization and presence to offer the resources they need to thrive. We strongly urge your support of the Maui County Farm Bureau line item in the FY '21 Budget. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Watanabe. Mahalo for your testimony. Okay, we'll go to...let's check if Alex Urban has established, reestablished connection. Alex Urban? Marty Martin? Okay. Testifier 34 is Triston Rodrigues, followed by Simon Russell, and that's out of 76 testifiers.

MR. RODRIGUES: Hi, you guys. Good morning. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Yes, Mr. Rodrigues.

MR. RODRIGUES: Aloha kākou. My name is Triston Rodrigues. Let's see, I'm here to testify about letting you folks know I am in the tourism industry, directly I work with tourists every day, not anymore though. I realize we're in shaky waters now and whatnot so the future is, has a crisis right now, and I realize you guys have the power to help control where some of our money can go to help us. So, the little guy like me who's around a lot of us who was the little guys like speak out a little bit, you know, and I speak for a lot of people too that are like, you know, in the same boat, the same thought process about what we're going on with right now and as far as what our future is. So like, I feel, I totally feel tourism no need, no help. Maui is known around the world, it's desired. No need no help there. No money should go into there. I feel all the money should be going into places like farming stuff so we no gotta deal with what we staying dealing with right now is being scared of where our next meal or where...you know, I stay on groups like where I going find my next bag rice like that, that kind stuff. It's scaring me and whatnot. So, all the money should be going to how we can sustainably be confident with ourselves over here in beautiful Hawai`i where we can grow some of the best and the abundance, but no, the money keep going to other places. And I thought that's where I should be for my future, I should be farming or fishing or hunting, because I stay getting scared little bit. To me, when all this...if all this go back to maybe not, but the tourism going bounce back guarantee, guarantee. When it does, if and when we make it right to where we're allowing the right people for come in that's been tested and checked so no hurt our little islands and create more one pandemic 'cause we so small and isolated. So, we gotta think harder so we letting the right people at the few numbers, but we grow the numbers of people here now farming, using their hands in other ways, not being so dependent all

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the people flying in anymore but what we can do for feed ourselves. I willing for make the change. I know plenty of the people are willing for make a change if need be because of the scare. You hear 'em in my voice 'cause get plenty of us like that. So, hear me loudly, guys, use our money wisely. Take 'em in the direction we need for sustain so I no feel scared no more. You know what I mean? You guys feel me yeah? Let's do what is right, guys, take care our people that's here now in this County and this State. Make 'em sustainable, guys. Please, feel me. I still going be in the tourism for little while more, but I like see 'em go to the way where I don't got to depend on that so much. I love it, I know it, but it's not all I need to know, it's not all I can do. Just like the plenty of the rest of us, we can do other things too and add to our skills of the life, but we need help and we need the money to be put in the right places and the right direction so we are able to go and get this help for learn 'em. Well, thank you for your time, guys. Don't' doubt me, that was the real, nothing phony about that, 'cause this today is real and I went wait this long to speak, and thank you for listening and hearing me and feeling me. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mister...aloha. Mahalo, Mr. Rodrigues. Next is our 35th testifier, Simon Russell, followed by phone number 793-3385. Mr. Russell? Mr. Russell, please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony. So we'll come back to Mr. Russell. Phone number 793-3385. Okay, I've unmuted you if you'd like to proceed with your testimony. We can hear you if you start speaking.

MR. RUSSELL: Chair Rawlins, can you hear me now? This is Simon calling.

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

MR. RUSSELL: Sorry about that. I had two layers of mute.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. RUSSELL: Chair Rawlins, it's an honor to be with you today. County Council, mahalo for hearing this testimony regarding the Farmers Apprentice Mentoring Program as well as the Farmers Union United. I have quite a long history with this program and I just wanted to give a little back story. As a second generation family farmer, I've always been very, very concerned that our farmers are aging out. I watched my, both my parents age out and only passing the information down to me. Back in 2013 when I was the Vice-President of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United under Vincent Mina and Bill Greenleaf was the President of the Maui Farmers Union, Vincent and Mr. Greenleaf and myself sat around his table dreaming up the Farmers Apprenticeship Program which didn't have a name at that time. But we know that one of the most sacred things we have, one of the most precious things we have in our community is the knowledge of growing food and especially the knowledge of growing food without importing anything, without importing pesticides, without importing fertilizer. So, we decided to create this program to promote natural and organic and sustainable and regenerative farming practices which is what the program continues to do today. As the Farmers Union grew and changed its name from the Maui Farmers Union to the various chapters locally, there were three chapters at that time,

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I think Hana, Haleakala, and Mauna Kahalawai, we received grant money from the County of Maui in small amounts at first, the \$25,000 level through a fiscal sponsor, and eventually through the Hawai'i Farmers Union Foundation which I was the President of at that time. And it was a substantial program because we also had a collaborator...collaboration with Kamehameha Schools in Lahaina which still goes on. This program is vital to the farmers and their capacity to transfer their information. So, I ask you and I beg you to make sure that the core function of this program continues regardless of who administers it, because farmers deserve to be paid to transfer their knowledge. When they take the time to mentor somebody, they lose time on their farm, and so that's what Vincent and Bill and myself and Phyllis and Georgia and Annie and the education committee by the way, that's what we created and it took many years, it took four years. And I'm saying during those four years, there were thousands of hours on the phone developing the curriculum, going back and forth between the people who farm for a living and the people who administer programs. So, I'm also...and I don't speak for the organization, but I'm just going to say my last word is I also work for the Farm Service Agency and that program of the Farm Service Agency is administered by producers and people who farm. And it's so important to have these producers administering --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One final sentence to close.

MR. RUSSELL: --farm programs. So, that's my final sentence is that when we have such an important program like the future of our food production and the people who manage it, it's important that it be overseen by people who produce. Thank you so much for your time. And thank you for supporting agriculture and the future of our food security. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Russell. I'll try phone number 793-3385 one more time.

MS. HŪ`EU: Aloha. Napua Hū`eu here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh aloha.

MS. HŪ`EU: Aloha. I'm here to testify regarding EDB-1, in specific the Mayor's appropriation for \$1.5 million for axis deer eradication. And I just wanted to give testimony that I believe Riki Hokama's Healthy Families and Communities Committee is fully capable of forming an axis deer policy and moving forward from there with a sound policy. I would highly recommend and I can send the contact info for the Maui Game and Land Management Organization who I feel needs to serve as a resource in the policymaking of how to handle axis deer on Maui. It's a newly formed group of a lot of vetted individuals who have provided oversight of the deer issue on Maui in many different capacities, individuals from multiple different local hunting organizations and groups. And I feel that ultimately this money needs to go to a local community hunting coop mechanism of some sort, and the money should not be given to any off-island, private, commercial, for-profit entities that lack credentials and that we really need to build a local hunting community coop of some sort. And that the

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Maui Game and Land Management Organization can serve as a significant resource in the planning process. And so, I'll send an e-mail today with all of that contact info for those individuals that serve in that organization. And that's it, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Hū`eu. We have a request from Member Sinenci, if you would please submit your written testimony to edb.committee@mauicounty.us.

MS. HŪ`EU: Will do.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. HŪ`EU: Mahalo. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Next we have Farron Cabral from Common Ground Collective, followed by Aram Armstrong.

MS. CABRAL: Hello. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. CABRAL: Okay. Sorry, I was making my daughter cereal. Okay. Good morning, Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you so much for opening this online platform. I think we should continue to use it in the future. My name is Farron Cabral, today I'm testifying on behalf of Common Ground Collective as a member of the board. I think one thing we can all agree upon is how important our agriculture and food growth is for our island. For many that don't know, our nonprofit was established in 2017, to also help fill the need of improving food security and food regeneration. I've been a part of this board for a little under a year, but I'm amazed by all that this organization has accomplished in our island. Our organization has harvested almost 6,000 pounds of food for this year. For me personally, it is very important to support food security on our island and also support our local economy now more than ever. We can see the devastation to our island's economy by solely relying on tourism. We need more funding going to growing food and growing our small businesses. Today, I wanted to come and ask for additional funding for our nonprofit organization Common Ground Collective. We already have a line item in the Budget for \$30,000 which we are super grateful for, but in light of Covid-19, circumstances are very fluid. If we had additional funding of around 70,000, we could have ready-to-go garden beds for our neighborhoods. We have wanted to provide this from the beginning but have been limited due to our financial limitations. If funding permits, we plan to perform 16 ready-to-go garden bed installations through December 2020 which would be about 2 installations per month. Or we could do 32 garden beds which would be 4 installations per month. We have potential clients already in the queue and lately more people have been contacting us regarding the garden beds. As everyone knows, food security has become more urgent. More funding would mean we could do a lot more. We have everything in place and ready to go. Thank you so much for your

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support. Thank you, Councilmembers, for everything you're doing and thank you so much for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Cabral. Next testifier is Aram Armstrong, followed by phone number 336-0625.

MR. ARMSTRONG: Aloha, Council. Thank you, Council Chair Rawlins, and mahalo, everybody. So, my name is Aram, I am the technologist helping, one of the technologist helping Food Security Hawai'i. I grew up here on Maui. This is my second time returning to Hawai'i. I just got here before Covid-19 a few weeks and immediately signed up with Jenny Pell and the Food Security Hawai'i folks to help spin up the 'Ohana Gardens initiative as well as helping out Simon Russell with his campaign for State House. So, let's just say I come as, in service of Maui County. I would like to build on David Fisher's proposal for coming to collaboration and solutions. And I took David Fisher's class for regenerative business development through the Hawai'i Farmers Union remotely. So, I'm just here to represent that the Food Security Hawai'i folks are local and we're here to work collectively, cooperatively, and it feels like there's just a scarcity issue or a scarcity...fear around having enough resources. And so, we all feel this is very important that we work together to grow abundance on this island and work together collectively. I will be sharing some tools with you through my written testimony. It looks like this right now but I'll type it up very soon and have you some recommendations of ways that we can work together. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Armstrong. And yes, please e-mail your written testimony to edb.committee@mauicounty.us. Okay, our next testifier is testifier 40 of 76 testifiers, phone number 336-0625. Okay, we'll try back on another time. Next testifier is Kahala Maui, Jennifer Chrupalyk, followed by Vincent Kimura.

MS. CHRUPALYK: Mahalo, Keani. And thank you to everybody for providing this opportunity for us to still testify from home today. Before I start my own testimony, I would just like to heavily support Keali'i Reichel, Autumn Rae Ness, and with...and Triston. With my support for Autumn Rae Ness, I do have one question for the tourism industry and anybody who's worried about debt, the entire world is in debt right now, and if the entire world is in debt, to whom do we owe? And can that not be fixed with a simple delete? Okay, now moving on with my own testimony, I am a student in the former FAM Program. I am in Cohort 5. I believe we are now changing our name to Maui Family Farm Training under the leadership of Dr. Phyllis Robinson and Georgia Pinsky. I'm asking that this item become a separate line item in the Budget separate from the Hawai'i Farmers Union. I'm questioning the legality of the Hawai'i Farmers Union to be able to fire them from a program that they've written, developed, and tailored for our education. I would also like to state that not everybody in the FAM Farm Program is a foreigner or, you know, a new entity. I would like to bring up the fact that I feel as though the Hawai'i Farmers Union is a little afraid of competition, and I see that they're quickly trying to align themselves with Mahi Pono whom I do not support at all. I'm asking that you would continue to invest into the ag

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industry, that you would continue to finance us and support multiple methods of agricultural programs to continue to develop farmers, because where tourism industry drops the ball and the finances, they've already claimed financial disaster. They're not feeding us. And although I personally have never donated my farm products to the Hawai'i Farmers Union, I do feed the homeless with them. With that being said, I feel as though the Hawai'i Farmers Union is acting out of fear of competition and lack of their own security. They never did take any interest in the FAM Program until they viewed it as such competition, other than the introduction and the request that we take Mahi Pono lands which I am not interested in. As a descendent of Henry Maui, I am more concerned with fixing the allodial titles of our land. I am not concerned with taking the land over by eminent domain as they are. They offered...furthermore, Hawai'i Farmers Union offered no explanation about the situation that we are under right now, other than to send us a text message from a Maryland phone number dictating that during the Covid crisis, we should work on a Mahi Pono farm where dust particles less than three microns in size affect the respiratory system along with Covid. Thank you for giving me a chance to testify today.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony.

MS. CHRUPALYK: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Vincent Kimura, followed by --

MR. KIMURA: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --Jackie Keefe.

MR. KIMURA: Hi. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. KIMURA: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. My name is Vincent Kimura. I'm humbled to share as the President of the Waimanalo Farmers Union Chapter. I also sit on the Statewide executive board as well as interim member chair for the Statewide organization. I was asked by the executive committee to converse with Dr. Robinson on many of the background stories I was hearing regarding internal issues. It was explained that Dr. Robinson and Georgia wanted to move the FAM Program out of the Farmers Union. I spent about ten hours in conversations with Dr. Robinson. It was clear that her heart and passion for FAM is there. No matter who manages FAM, the single most important factor is the mission and vision to support farmers through this applied apprentice program and to ensure this program continues in perpetuity. I focused my assessment on the strategy and the plan and the fiscal plausibility to ensure financial self-sustainability and metrics to show impact. We shared all documents received by Dr. Robinson to all 2,800-plus in our membership newsletter that went out yesterday and is posted on our website. Here is some of our key findings. There is no plan, there is no budget to ensure this program under Food Security Hawai'i, a dba under Bio Bamboo Incorporated originally launched by

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Charlotte O'Brien or as their own new 501(c)(3) can be financially self-sustainable. Their timeline shows several personal conflicts between many of the Food Security Hawai'i leadership who have given testimony today and Vincent Mina. In addition, their timeline shows this plan to undermine the FAM Program started a year ago when FAM's trademark was registered by the former Assistant Director under her own personal company Amber Venture Hawai'i. Bio Bamboo or Food Security Hawai'i's 2018 IRS 990 shows 98 percent of the income comes from one single private donor in the amount of \$350,000. And from 2017 and 2018, they have only received six private unusual grant donations from private donations. In addition to the link between Food Security Hawai'i and Maui 'Aina First also run by Charlotte O'Brien shows they're a sister organization. Last year, Food Security Hawai'i paid Maui 'Aina First \$334,500 for agriculture accounting. Many of the advisors on both organizations are local activists against controversial issues such as GMOs. We brought all this information to the HFUU State Board knowing very well because of personal conflicts this must be run through the process. We spent a long time discussing all the facts. It was not an easy decision because we acknowledge and appreciate Dr. Robinson and Georgia have nurtured, but we could not continue paying staff for undermining a hostile takeover of intellectual property they deemed they own. For anyone who runs their own business can attest to this. And in closing, HFUU is one of the largest by farmer and for farmer membership organizations in the State. FAM must be supported by real farmers for farmers. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Kimura. Okay, our next testifier is Jackie Keefe, followed by Marty Martin who has reestablished connection with us. Ms. Keefe?

MS. KEEFE: Hi. Thank you. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. KEEFE: Great. Thank you so much, Councilmembers, for allowing testimony today. My name is Jackie Keefe from Lahaina, Maui, and I just kind of want to piggyback on Triston's and Autumn's testimony. So, I wanted to speak today regarding tourism in the Budget versus putting that money towards agriculture. I work as most of my Maui 'ohana in multiple jobs. I'm a personal vacation planner and a restaurant manager, and I've seen firsthand that there is no need to spread word about Maui. With the Internet as a resource, Maui has become one of the most desired travel destinations in the world, and I actually find it upsetting to know how much money gets spent on Maui tourism when there are so many infrastructure problems that we can work on instead. Most citizens of the globe are either fully aware of Maui or will come across tons of information on it when looking to plan a vacation. There are countless best tropical destinations and other articles that first...that are the first result when Google pops up to tell people all about the wonders of Maui. I come across literally countless people who say their friends come every year or we've been told about Maui for years and finally decided to come. I've worked in restaurants of all sizes and prices here on Maui and that feedback is always the same. Whether bartending at . . . *(inaudible)* . . . or Merriman's or managing at Captain Jack, that feedback doesn't change. People are aware of Maui so much so that what used to be a slow season for us in September is

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no longer. The only reason we're experiencing one this year is because of Covid-19 and I don't think we'll have one again after this. That's fine with me but it also speaks to why this Budget money should go towards agriculture instead of tourism. I haven't even mentioned the countless illegal Airbnb's that contribute to the housing crisis here on Maui, especially the West Side. Now, I don't know about you but these things together really speak to the absolute lack of a need to spend more money on tourism. If we're going to spend money towards tourism, I'd rather that money go towards looking to shut down all of these illegal vacation rentals that we know exist and can't do anything about. Before this pandemic, people knew that we needed more land dedicated to farming, but it has made so much more apparent especially for someone like myself who's not involved in farming how important it is that we work on becoming once again self-sufficient. Maui tourism will bounce back when people can afford to come back, and we have no control over that timeline, but we do have control over making ourselves less dependent on that industry, tourism, whereas now tourism is everything for us. In my opinion, we should focus less on tourism and allocate more money towards developing agriculture, whether it be programs or land or whatever it takes. Mahalo for your time and aloha. Does anyone have any questions for me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Keefe, for your testimony. Next to testify is Marty Martins, followed by Faith Chase. Mr. Martin, please unmute yourself and you may proceed with your testimony.

MS. MILNER: Chair, I believe he may have lost connection again.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Faith Chase, followed by Walter Ritte.

MS. CHASE: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. CHASE: Please support Maui Family Farming Training Network by ensuring that the originally earmarked monies go to this strong program. I originally looked to Hawai'i Farmers Union United as a means to support the intergenerational farmers in much needed area of my hometown in East Maui. I was a paid membership chair, stipend-paid membership chair who performed forensic accounting to get HFUU back on track in 2014. I was the brand ambassador for a time, using my graphic design experience doing all the necessary organization business identity. I was the policy committee secretary for three years. I was the sustainable agricultural committee secretary for two years. I was the Haleakala chapter board member, and finally by the encouragement of other members and in efforts to bring some fresh air into the organization, I ran for the president position at the 2018 convention. I have personally given this organization over 300 hours of volunteer time. I know this organization very well. At the 2018 convention, the policy committee had failed to properly prepare and they regressed. I left the organization last year. I joined the California Farmers Union because I found more support from the women farmers of California than I did in my home chapter. I have worked with Phyllis Robinson and I have known Georgia Pinsky most of her life. I have never seen such a dynamic duo. Phyllis can be a shrewd

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mentor and quite frankly Georgia is a most ardent translator for Phyllis' signature style of digging, researching, envisioning, and the pushing the limit kind of work style. Georgia presented at the Resource Recovery Maui 2019 event at the UH Maui College and invigorated the audience with vigor and hope. She and Phyllis grow farmers. I got to meet the students of the 5th Cohort as a water history instructor and it was amazing to witness the dedication and admiration to their leaders Phyllis and Georgia. And the deep interest was chicken skin to witness. I was thrilled to learn that Councilmember and EDB Chair Keani Rawlins had the fortitude to ask for the Farmer Mentoring Program to expand to Molokai and...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Everybody, I did everybody.

MS. CHASE: In light of recent events with HFUU, I am in favor of funding for Maui Family Farming Training Network under Food Security Hawai'i. I know all the board members of Food Security Hawai'i and trust this organization will guide this farming teaching program well. Please support Maui Family Farming Training Network by ensuring that the originally earmarked monies go to this strong program. Funding specifically for a line item, farm training is a goal that Maui County Council needs to ensure is clearly identified in this way. Our East Maui farmers are looking forward to the support of this program. I'd like you...I'd like to direct you to my website Farmers Voice Hawai'i. This website was inspired by a well-known Maui natural farmer and supported by a Maui Internet consultant and another well-known Kaua'i natural farmer. The cover page has a story that goes down the history lane of HFUU. You might find it informational as well as inspirational. I'm changing gears to in other Budget considerations, I would like to mention that the monies budgeted for axis deer is an important allocation. I have wholehearted trust that Riki Hokama's Healthy Families and Communities Committee will be able to steer the policy for this issue. Councilmember Hokama's interest due to his home island of Lāna'i and the hunting and land ownership issues actually makes this Committee a perfect lead. I can e-mail the rest of my testimony. I would just also like to support the ESG project. I believe they...I think I looked at them very closely because of using the name ahupua'a. I used binoculars in reviewing them and I believe they deserve this allocation. I believe in supporting Keali'i Reichel's hālau, Kanani Higbee's FFA development and the County to help with the DHHL issues. I think that this a diverse board and you can actually help Maui's DHHL Department. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Chase. Our next testifier is Walter Ritte, followed by Jill Tokuda.

MR. RITTE: Come back, come back. Oh, my God. Hey, howzit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. RITTE: This...aloha. I stay on Molokai at a homestead and my testimony is in support of farming. And what you see behind me if I can figure out how to get those guys behind me, we've been working from yesterday to today plowing up our lands, getting ready to plant, and not grumble about waiting for the government to feed us, but to go

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ahead and go hunting, go fishing, start planting. So, we are really, really supportive of the idea of having the County support farmers. We not too keen about the tourists over here on Molokai. They're a pain in the `okole for us. This pandemic really showed how much of a pain that they are to us. But if you guys are going to spend money, no spend 'em on the tourists, if you're going to spend money, spend 'em on the farmers. Get the farmers solidified, give 'em tax breaks, give 'em funding, whatever it takes to make sure that the farmers are farming, especially the ones giving us starches. We need more starches which is the taro. Give them the tax breaks, give them all the incentives necessary in order for us to eat taro. It's better than rice, it's better than potatoes. So, the message from Molokai today is don't spend your money on the tourists, they're going to come no matter what. We don't need entice them to come, they going come. Spend the money on feeding your people here in Maui County. More farming support. So, from all of us here on Molokai support the farmers.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Support the farmers.

MR. RITTE: Okay. A hui hou. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Ritte?

MR. RITTE: Yes?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think the internet is...you don't have strong enough of a signal for everyone to see behind you. So, if you would like to verbally explain who is standing behind you.

MR. RITTE: It's all the guys that are on our homestead here in Ho`olehua, Molokai. Young people, old people realizing that we gotta go feed ourselves. We all stuck at home, what we going do, yell at the kids all day? No, we going go outside and plant and teach 'em how to plant and what it takes to cut all the grass, dig out the grass, plow up the field, look for the seeds, and have good family affairs. So, if we going teach our kids, we going teach our kids how to survive.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. RITTE: Okay, aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. RITTE: So, give the money to the farmers. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Ritte.

MR. RITTE: Okay.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Molokai doesn't have very good service. Okay. The next testifier is Jill Tokuda, followed by Joey Mella.

MS. TOKUDA: Hi. Aloha, Chair. Can you hear me?

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

MS. TOKUDA: Okay, very good. Thank you so much. Good morning, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair King, Members of the Maui County Council. My name is Jill Tokuda and I am testifying on behalf of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, in strong support of the \$200,000 Economic Development Program grant that was included in the Mayor's Proposed Budget. First and foremost, having sat where you are sitting right now, although under extremely difficult situation, just want to really commend you for your leadership and your commitment. This really is an example to many other parts of our government system across the State, to show that we can do the people's work, but make sure as well that we keep engaged and hear from our community as well. So, mahalo for what you're doing today. This has been very inspiring to watch and to see. I've also submitted written testimony. We have circulated information to your office as an overview to our pavilion expansion project and are very much open to any questions you have. But to briefly summarize, this really is about making sure that we can support the Maui story and spread it even beyond our local borders. You know, we've had interest from across the State and across the country and the world to really understand Maui's local experience in terms of our Nisei veterans, and support all of our veterans that come from Maui as well. Over 3,000 individuals and this is mostly student groups, scholars, community members, and yes, tourists, have come through our door each year with over 300 requests that we get annually for people wanting to know about their own family members that have served in World War II and other campaigns. So, it's really critical that we be able to start to meet those demands for access, for information, and the ability to gather quite frankly. You know, Covid-19 if anything has really reminded us of the importance and the basic human need we have to come together and to connect. Right now we're doing it virtually and we can see each other on the screen, but there will come a time hopefully soon where we can be together in the same room, we can learn from one another, we can support each other, we can share our opinions and our views in a safe space. And that's really what the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center campus is all about, from the education center to our preschool to our adult daycare center, it really is about a place where our Maui community knows that they can come together, share, and preserve that important history that is part of Maui. This pavilion project we've gotten support from the State in a grant in aid. We've got commitments from local businesses, the entire board of directors at NVMC. By having the County share as well supporting this project we're really going to be able to leverage new jobs for Maui. All of this really can be very quick shovel ready economic stimulus for our Maui businesses in the very near future, and this is really the way we look at it as a win-win. We can create jobs, keep that money on Maui, and more importantly share and uphold the Maui story and values locally and globally. So with that, thank you so much again for the chance to participate via this virtual setup and I hope more follow your lead.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You are really experienced at this. Good timing.

MS. TOKUDA: Good timing. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo for your testimony. Our next testifier is testifier 47 out of 77, and, Members, my intention is to keep taking testimony until we're completed before we take lunch. Any objections? Okay, hearing none, I'm going to continue with that plan. Okay, our next testifier, testifier 47, Joey Mella, followed by Karen Comcowich.

MR. MELLA: Aloha, valued...can you hear me? Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. MELLA: Good. Okay, good. Aloha, valued Members of the County Council. Thank you for supporting the continued development of our communities. My name is Joey Mella and I'm renting a home in Kula. I'm currently enrolled in the 2020 5th Cohort of the Maui Family Farmer Training Network. My dream is to start a vegetable and herbal CSA, integrating value-added products such as Gochujang, soy-free, gluten-free shoyu and miso. I have some even bigger dreams, to learn to grow large-scale kalo, sweet potato, and beginning to experiment with large-scale trials of gluten-free grain such as rice, buckwheat, corn, and quinoa. There is an incredibly diverse array of knowledge, experience, and wisdom for someone like me to learn. I was honored and thrilled to be accepted into the FAM Program. From the beginning, I have been more than fully supported by both its Program Director Phyllis Robinson and its Acting Assistant Program Director Georgia Pinsky. Their kindness, attention to detail, and sheer tenacity of will is remarkable. I am honored to work by their side and so happy to have a growing cohort of creative and loving growers. To name a few of their contributions, they have been teaching, coordinating a large group of mentors, managing schedules, attending to learning goals, accommodating telecommuting through Zoom, acting as counselors when us as students face difficult times, acting as a bridge into the community of farmers, working with legislation to increase funding for programs like FAM, and finally working to develop food hubs. Fast forward to now and we are held in the midst of a global pandemic. Many people have become unemployed, myself included as I work as a server at Mama's Fish House. While the grocery stores are doing a great job in ensuring food keeps getting stocked, at least to me food actually feels scarce. With these uncertainties to then receive the troubling action upon my two teachers, namely to fire both Phyllis and Georgia is both stressful and confusing. I am sure it was not the intention; however, this action has led to a deeper sense of insecurity. I desperately want to continue this program. This is a time to mediate which has been requested by Phyllis and a time to come to understanding. Supporting family farms with a curriculum that Phyllis and Georgia have helped to develop so robustly is something that should be applauded now, its funding should be quadrupled and these skills shared to absolutely anyone who wishes to learn. And yes, to echo the legendary Walter Ritte, please give money to the farmers and skip the tourism. I am holding my prayers strong that we may come to a

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friendly agreement. I am confident that when we come to a place...that we can come to a place where all our needs are met. Thank you again for your service. Please stay strong and do eat more vegetables during this time because it does prevent sickness. Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Mella. Our next testifier is testifier 48, Karen Comcowich, followed by Jody Bowman.

MS. COMCOWICH: Aloha. First of all, thank you guys for ensuring transparency and public participation in this meeting. It seems like it's going really well. I'm going to be talking about...well, I live in Lahaina first of all and like most people on the West Side I work in tourism. So, I'm going to be talking about funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau. The Countywide Policy Plan for 2010 states that Maui County's economy will be diverse, sustainable, and supportive of community values. As Covid-19 has glaringly brought to light, encouraging tourism has not helped with these goals. Particularly on the West Side our economy is heavily dependent on tourism. At least two-thirds of the jobs are tourism related. These jobs are typically low paid service and retail jobs which leaves residents particularly vulnerable to economic downturns. The number of tourists has gotten way out of balance. We had 3 million arrive last year, I'm sure you guys know that. It's just adding more congestion to the beaches and roads, but they're spending less than in previous years. We need to diversify our economy to strengthen our community. It's also...Covid-19 has also brought to light how unsustainable tourism is. The pictures of the fields filled with rental cars shows why Maui rush hour typically lasts all day. On the other side is the beautiful return of animals and the resting of resources. Since there are less people on the beach, and turtles...turtles and seals have come to rest and I've seen loons playing in the rain gardens, and the residents can safely social distance while enjoying the waves. Finally, I don't really think tourism is supportive of community values. There are some bright spots like hotels and visitors who recognize the sense of place and give back to our community. But again, Covid-19 has shown how entitled many visitors are. When the roads to Hana and Kahakuloa were closed, many visitors still drove them and challenged locals who asked them not to. Because they were here to see the island and felt entitled to their adventure, it took a 14-day quarantine to significantly slow the number of arrivals, and yet even this week, my friends have seen people checking into Airbnb's near their house and heading straight to the beach. And I've seen tourists lounging on Kaanapali while they should be in quarantine in the houses they're renting. With this Budget I would like to see the County strive for more balance. The money budgeted for the Maui Visitors Bureau should be decreased and carry a stipulation that the Bureau needs to work towards encouraging tourism that is more sustainable and respectful of the community values. Instead, it should be allocated to programs that diversify our economy and strengthen our food security and water security. My top choices would be MEO so it could provide micro grants for a variety of businesses. And increase funding for conservation efforts like watershed partnerships and MISC as these are important for water security and therefore food security and also...and I'm done. Good timing.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. Perfect timing. Mahalo, Ms. Comcowich. Our next testifier is Jody Bowman, followed by Kyle Alres [sic].

MS. BOWMAN: All right, can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. BOWMAN: Okay. Good afternoon, Councilmembers. My name is Jody Bowman. I'm here this morning as a board member of Common Ground Collective. Our team has been working with the community for free for over three years. We work with homeowners that are growing produce that would otherwise go to waste and share it with those who want to make use of it. We sell some of the produce to help cover our operation costs and also donate a large portion of our harvest to other nonprofits helping to feed our homeless population and those who have lost their jobs recently. With this funding we could reach out to help even more people. We have donated fresh, local produce to the Maui Food Bank and their extensive distribution networks like Hawaiian immersion schools, Paia Youth and Cultural Center, Family Life Services, Chilis on Wheels, and Local Harvest. Our board members volunteer their time working with farmers, organizing monthly workdays at their farms along with our list of community volunteers to help farmers feel supported and accomplish more without having to extend more of their precious finances. We could all use a boost of working together right now and that is incredibly important to Common Ground Collective. We are a hands-on group organizing farm plans and planting trees with homeowners who want to continue to create food sustainability for Hawai'i. We would use this funding to continue to inspire homeowners and community members to grow more food locally, selling that produce on island, and supporting our huge potential to do more for Hawai'i. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Bowman.

MS. BOWMAN: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We received a request from Member Sinenci if you could be a resource. Ms. Bowman sent us her organization. Would you be able to serve as a resource later? Will you please send your contact information to the EDB Committee?

MS. BOWMAN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Edb.committee@mauicounty.us.

MS. BOWMAN: Great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. BOWMAN: Mahalo.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Next is Kyle Alres [sic]. Okay. Oh no, different Kyle. Okay. We'll try again after if the connection is reestablished. Phone number 955-0955.

MR. DOBOVAN: Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Please identify yourself and proceed with your testimony. Oh.

MR. DOBOVAN: Hello. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. DOBOVAN: Hello? Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can hear you.

MR. DOBOVAN: I keep getting muted for some reason. Okay, thank you. Hi. My name is John Dobovan. I'm a commercial farmer up here in Kula. I had to call in today so I could deliver a truckload of organic produce so forgive me. I'm also the current president of the Haleakala Chapter of Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and I sit on the State board of directors that oversees our Farm Apprentice Mentorship Program. As you know, it's a really unfortunate fact that we've recently had to dismiss both our program director and her assistant. This is union business and now it's a legal matter. And I want to apologize to you for this having come before you. It's a distraction we really don't need. I've been on the board of directors of the Haleakala Chapter since 2014 and, you know, I was one of those who voted in favor of hiring Phyllis Robinson with membership funds to write the initial grant proposals to fund the FAM Program. This was an HFUU project from the very outset and it's always been intended to remain affiliated with the farmers of Hawai'i Farmers Union United. Now, we are a Statewide organization. We've been chartered by the National Farmers Union. You know since its very inception, we have turned FAM into an island-wide program and we're working diligently to make it Statewide. We've got 13 chapters Statewide and over 1,400 members including a great many commercial farmers. We've got the resources and the talent to continue to build and improve this program. Now, I've been listening and, you know, I've heard the criticism of our actions in dismissing the program director. I notice that nearly all of that criticism is coming from individuals who've not been directly involved in the oversight of the FAM Program. And it mostly mirrors the grievances of our former employees. You know much of this is coming from FAM students and alumni and, you know, I take that as a testament to the value of FAM; although, I think it's also a sign that some may have confused personalities with the program. You know I've even heard criticism that my friend and colleague Bobby Pahia has stepped up as the new interim director using his own land to host apprentices during this emergency. Now, I'm trying to be polite here but frankly that criticism makes me really, really angry. Bobby is a highly skilled, you know, knowledgeable and successful indigenous farmer who fully embraces sustainable farming. He's a good man with a long history of helping new farmers. How anybody could have an issue with him running the FAM Program is beyond my

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understanding. It makes no more sense than taking a successful farm apprentice program away from our local farmers and turning it over to a newly created entity comprised almost entirely of non-farmers. I was one of the original FAM Program mentors, and many of our FAM Program mentors are HFUU farmers. Most have indicated they would like to continue working with HFUU. I ask that you continue to give your full support to our Hawai'i Farmers Union United. Your local farmers are needed now more than ever and we need your full support. Please, don't take our apprentices away from us. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Our next testifier is Raina, followed by Pam. Raina, if you could unmute yourself.

MS. MYERS: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. MYERS: Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. MYERS: Okay. I just wanted to come on as someone who's recently lost their job in the tourism industry to say that I want to put more of myself and help build more community around local food. I have worked on farms and managed farmers markets on the mainland, and I came here because I wanted to be able to be somewhere I could grow the food I love to eat. So, I just really want to see Maui move in the direction of being an example. We're in a really unique position with the tourism industry that's so successful already doesn't need any help. We're in a really unique position because we can use that space where people are coming from all over the world to be here and to show them what we can do with our local food systems. So, I just want to put my support behind Autumn and the Common Ground Collective. And as someone who hopes to be a participant in the future FAM Program that that still continues. And I don't see any reason why . . . *(inaudible)*. . . And I really hope that either way the, a program like that does continue on on Maui. And thank you for having me. And it's really beautiful to see so many people so passionate about farming here and to see all these women here holding this space. So, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Will you please provide me your last name?

MS. MYERS: My legal name is Jessica Myers, M-Y-E-R-S.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. MYERS: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Our next testifier is Pam, followed --

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MS. TUMPAP: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --by Noelani...

MS. TUMPAP: Aloha, Chair and Committee Members. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on the essential Office of Economic Development budget as it provides critical funding to support our industries and rebuild our economy as quickly as possible. I'm Pamela Tumpap, President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce which supports commerce that everyone participates in our economy and our community. We ask today for your support of the Made in Maui County Festival funding to help local manufacturing businesses and promote buy Maui County products first. We are very hopeful that given the timing as our festival is always held the first weekend in November, that we can still hold the festival this year. And, you know, most of our attendees are local residents who really cherish this event. As we are working toward being more sustainable and OED is working to ensure all their programs are more sustainable, we have reduced the request as we are trying to build other investments through sponsorships into this festival. So, it's gone from 100,000 to 80,000 this year. And over the past 6 years, 342 participating manufacturers reported over 3.1 million in retail sales, 204,460 items sold, 1,440 wholesale accounts, and over 7,000 new leads established. So, we have generated a great return on investment and believe that coming out of Covid-19, the festival will be great, bright spot for our community to come together before the holiday season, support local businesses, rebuild our manufacturing businesses who have been devastated during this time, and again continue to assist in sustaining our economy. We also want to advocate of course for strongly growing our agricultural industry as it is rebuilding now. And of course local ag is important to our sustainability and economic diversification. We also want to support all efforts to help local businesses and are working with the County on new programs to assist. This is really a devastating time. In prior recessions, we've seen Aloha Airlines shut down and Maui Pineapple Company and hundreds of businesses, and that's when businesses could open and visitors were still coming. And many businesses we can't ignore the fact are being devastated not only by Covid-19 but because they're very reliant on the visitor industry. They don't know how long they're going to be able to survive this or if they'll be able to survive it and don't know when the visitors will be coming back. We have already seen major layoffs from hotels, resorts, restaurants, retail shops, activity businesses, and non-essential businesses. Unemployment claims have soared. Week of March 28th this year, 10,849 compared to only 180 last year. And we are not yet at April 15th nor April 30th. We have gone from the, one of the lowest unemployment rates per capita in the nation to the highest. If I can just sum up in one sentence, it's imperative and the World Health Organization and International Monetary Fund note you have to protect both health and the economy and jobs. We urge that we do both and understand the new realities the visitor industry faces and the investment it's going to take to bring this business back and those jobs as quickly as possible.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Tumpap.

MS. TUMPAP: Thank you so much.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Noelani Ahia, followed by Maui Hawai'i. I think we've lost connection with the two so we'll try to circle back a little later to see if they reestablish connection. Our next testifier is Hōkūao Pellegrino, followed by Anny Bruch. Mr. Pellegrino, will you please unmute yourself and...

MR. PELLEGRINO: Sorry. Can you hear me now? Cool.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. PELLEGRINO: Aloha, Council Chair and Members. I hope you and all your `ohana are safe and most importantly healthy. My name is Hōkūao Pellegrino, I've been a small, organic, family kuleana wetland kalo and diversified crop farmer and ag educator in the trenches at our family farm, Noho`ana Farm in Waikapū for 20 years. We are learning many things due to the current state of the global pandemic. We do not have the food security and sustainable island chain as we once had with a similar population 250 years ago. This is an opportune time for you as Councilmembers to pause and reassess what we want our future economic drivers to look like, with hopes that we prioritize and support farmers directly. I also have a vast knowledge about the Hawai'i Farmers Union, FAM Program and the organization at large in addition to one, being a mentor for a number of apprentices in that program in the past as well as being a long-time member. Both HFU [sic] and Farm Bureau have done some great things over the years of which I have supported, yet their reach is limited, has proven not to extensively support small farmers, especially those who are Native Hawaiians cultivating food on kuleana lands which are some of the most productive agricultural lands there is. In fact, many of the Hawai'i Farmers Bureau leadership and Maui Farm Bureau leadership and their members while not in their formal capacities, have testified on numerous occasions against kuleana agricultural farmers such as myself and over 75 other Native Hawaiian farmers in Na Wai Eha, East Maui, and most recently West Maui who need to access surface water to cultivate food for our families and communities. Furthermore, the leadership of Hawai'i Farmers Union Foundation has completely eroded and has lost all credibility. Sadly, has become an old boy network highly selecting who they want to and not support, aligning to big ag corporations and failing to engage with their members on numerous levels. The pilikia problems that have arisen recently between Hawai'i Farmers Union leadership and the FAM Program is a clear indication of how dysfunctional that organization currently is. This kind of drama, frankly corruption, is despicable especially in the current local economic and global climate that we are in. Growing Hawai'i's agricultural food systems in a collaborative manner couldn't be more important than it is now. Moving forward, it is my hope that is that you look to increasing food...broad financial support for farmers rather than the tourist industry. It is imperative to strategically identify innovative ways to cut out the middleman such as Hawai'i Farmers Union who only select few. You have the opportunity to set a new precedence here to work towards redefining and reinvigorating new farmer educational training programs within schools, community based that are actively engaging the next generation of farmers within Maui nui such as FFA, Maui School Garden Network, Hōkūnui, CTE programs, and post-high school mentorship programs. I strongly support funding farmers

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directly through some sort of micro grants as well which was mentioned earlier. There is a new generation of ag leaders in our community, many of whom are kanaka and Hawaiian doing amazing collaborative work in our communities and have the wherewithal on how to thrust our islands forward with a more ecological agricultural approach while increasing our food security needs. I'd be more than happy to be a resource and collaborate with you and others to help guide key decisions on agricultural funds. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Pellegrino. Mahalo for your testimony today. Our...so, I received word from Staff that Noelani Ahia submitted written testimony. Okay. Our next testifier is Anny Bruch, followed by Jadda Miller.

MS. BRUCH: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Aloha.

MS. BRUCH: Okay. My name is Anny Bruch and I am a farmer. I'm the FAM Grant Manager and Vice-President for HFUU. It's been great to see that apprentices have been loving the FAM curriculum. This was created by the HFUU education committee and not individually by Phyllis Robinson. HFUU has guided the FAM Program every step of the way. HFUU leaders have provided innumerable expert volunteer hours as Simon Russell mentioned to help this program succeed. I'm, myself I'm a rural development and evaluation expert, and I carried out an evaluation of the FAM Program in the early years. This information brought many important changes to the program as a result. Likewise, HFUU leader recommendations have helped improve the FAM model over the years. These leaders may not be visible to . . . *(inaudible)*. . . but they're very much present and crucial in guiding the FAM Program to create successful farmers who can make a living at farming. It's a mistake to say we are just a fiscal sponsor for FAM as some have said. Instead, FAM is an integral part of HFUU and its foundation. And by the way, the funding for FAM in 2018, was part of the foundation and that's why it didn't show up in HFUU's taxes. There's no doubt that Phyllis and Georgia did good work for FAM, but that doesn't make the program theirs to take elsewhere. FAM was created by HFUU and it should stay as part of a farmers organization where apprentices can be part of a supported agricultural . . . *(inaudible)*. . . knowledge on farming within the organization during this transition is being led by Bobby Pahia and David Fisher who both bring experience on farming and business. This situation was brought about by Phyllis Robinson who stated that she wanted to take HFUU program to a non-farming organization. . . *(inaudible)*. . . It was based on her timeline. The appropriation of FAM was apparently in the works for many months without our knowledge. HFUU has nurtured a successful program and it shows. Apprentices have been bombarded with requests for them to testify and of course they want to be loyal to their teachers, but a teacher is not the owner of the school. And these teachers . . . *(inaudible)*. . . their class elsewhere. HFUU is the right place for a farmer training program, an organization led and managed by farmers. It would be a mistake to take it away from HFUU during this emergency. HFUU is the only organization that can guarantee this program will be sustainable over the years.

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And I ask the Council to continue to give . . . *(inaudible)* . . . the FAM Program. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Bruch. Okay, our next testifier is Jadda Miller, followed by Debbie.

MS. MILLER: Good morning, Chair and Councilmembers. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. MILLER: I appreciate this opportunity to testify for Maui School Garden Network. I believe our work to be absolutely imperative to the health and prosperity of our community and State. Now more than ever it is apparent that we need to allocate more funding and resources to increase our food security and self-sufficiency on our island. Even in the best of times, one in five children in Maui County are at risk of going hungry. This is a 62 percent increase over the last decade according to the Maui Food Bank. The economic crisis exacerbated by Covid-19 will lead even more people without access to affordable food. Maui School Garden Network will be addressing this need by providing fresh produce, plant starts, and information about growing food at no cost to families. Additionally, we will continue to reach out to our student population of 8,000 by offering educational content online. Our school gardens are poised to make a considerable contribution to providing increased food security for many families; however, to maximize the potential output of these valuable resources, funding will be needed to propagate, plant, maintain, harvest, and distribute the fresh produce from our school gardens to the most vulnerable populations in our community. To provide a historical context, 44 percent of fruits and vegetables consumed in the US during World War II came from victory gardens or home gardens. These are also called smallholder agroecosystems which can be considered school gardens and community gardens in the same context. Essentially, school gardens are a real possible solution to addressing our food and security particularly during this challenging time during Covid-19. With 35 school gardens, Maui School Garden Network has the arable space to produce a significant amount of food at no cost to our community. We just need our County support to make this initiative become a reality. Mahalo nui loa for your time in considering Maui School Garden Network as a line item in Maui County's 2021 Budget.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Miller. Our next testifier is testifier 60 out of 79, David Daly, followed by Cara Flores.

MR. DALY: Hi. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. DALY: Okay. Aloha, Council Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you for taking the time. My name is David Daly, I'm the Director of Maui Economic Opportunity, Business Development Center here in Wailuku. I'm testifying obviously on behalf of Core program, Business Development Center. On behalf of all of our current, past,

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current and past students, clients, I want to thank you so much for your support of our program. Business Development Center continues to work tirelessly to support our Maui businesses, residents on all three of our islands through our Core Four business planning classes, our one-on-one technical support of businesses and entrepreneurs, small business micro lending program, and our teen financial literacy classes. All of this could not be done without your continued support of our program, Maui Business Development Center. I humbly ask this funding to continue.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Daly, for your testimony. Next testifier is Cara Flores, followed by phone number 669-6271. Ms. Flores?

MS. FLORES: Can you hear me? This is Cara.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. FLORES: So, just full disclosure, I do own a small rental car company and I'm not with any specific nonprofit. But I wanted to say that I agree 100 percent with what Autumn said in her testimony, and I'm so encouraged by all the testimony that I've heard today that's pro food security, because I've been very concerned that we import 90 percent of our food for quite a long time. It's crystal clear that our residents want our tax money spent on growing food and not tourism, and I also support that. I wanted to point out that every dollar that we spend is a vote that you are making towards our future. We are dependent on tourism and right now it is the equivalent of our State's welfare system. So, you are choosing with this money who provides jobs and what Maui's future looks like. I believe that you are all smart and wise, I voted for a lot of you, and I want to ask if you want to continue to support the Hilton dynasty and our Marriott dynasty, those large companies, or do you want to grow and support local businesses and future farmers? Every dollar you vote for is voting between those two things. People already know Maui is great, we don't really need more advertising to bring people here, and this economic impact of Covid-19 is going to make it where people can't afford to come here for quite a while. So, this is a good opportunity to make things better than they were before. I myself have started gardening in our backyard, and I want you to consider if you want to vote for the local residents and farmers here or the trust fund babies who do not live here. So, number one priority should be supporting any kind of education in agriculture, because it's something that's quickly being lost to the next generation. Number two priority should be supporting local farmers who farm currently and own land and are distributing to get more local produce in our grocery stores so we're not importing it. And then priority number three should be making it more affordable to farm. When we first moved here, we bought a farm and not knowing how to farm it was a very steep learning curve. Because our mortgage was so high, we couldn't afford to do that as a living so we were trying to do two full-time jobs and pay a mortgage and farm. And sadly it didn't work out, it's just too much for two people with three kids to do. And so, we did, you know, farm enough to eat ourselves, but we could have if it was more affordable, farmed a lot more, and we came here with that intention. Our kids have all been raised here and I'm grateful that we have a yard now. We moved out of a condo and we're able to teach them to grow their own food and that they got to learn that while we did live on

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a farm. I would want you to consider making a way for people to cheaply and quickly start small farms, possibly renting or the County providing farming land at a very affordable price, maybe \$20 a month for a tenth of an acre to be farmed with a max of one acre per person. This would be an easy stepping stone to...so I'll submit the rest through writing. But I just want to end with saying let's make us more food secure and put more money towards making more of the produce on our shelves be from Maui and not imported from the rest of the world.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Flores. Our next testifier is phone number 669-6271. I think that we lost connection. Next testifier is testifier 63 out of 79, Kai Nishiki, followed by phone number 704-6483. Ms. Nishiki, if you could please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony. Okay, there we go. Oh, Kai? Okay. I don't think she's meaning to. Okay. We'll give her...we'll call on the next testifier, 704-6483. Seven zero four, six four eight three? One nine one six...nine one six, seven zero four, six four eight three. Okay. We'll go to the next testifier. Next testifier is phone number 357-0274. Three five seven, zero two seven four. Testifier 76, Rod Antone. Testifier 77, Kaena Elaban-Manuwa.

MR. ELABAN-MANUWA: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. ELABAN-MANUWA: Hiki ke lohe. You guys can hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hiki.

MR. ELABAN-MANUWA: Yeah. Okay. Aloha. O wau inoa` o Kaena Elaban-Manuwa. E ka ma ka mokupuni o Maui. Noho wau mai Kihei. I'm calling...first of all, I'd like to say that I am and have been for the last ten years dependent on the tourism industry. I'm a musician and yeah, a lot of my work comes straight from the people that fly here year round. But I am in opposition to giving more money to the tourism industry. I think I've said this about three years ago, you know, it's like when's the last time you seen a Snickers commercial? You don't see them anymore because they don't need to advertise, you know, it's like Maui is that level already. We don't need to advertise Maui, we...people know Maui from coming to Maui, seeing pictures of Maui. We do not need any more money going into advertising what Maui is. I would like to say that I would like to see more money going into supporting farming, not just any kind of farming but farming with generational knowledge. I'm currently enrolled in a farming class, farming program with Hōkūnui in Pi`iholo and they are teaching us, you know, how to culturally understand farming from learning `oli to grow our food, from understanding the moon, the stars, the weather patterns, the clouds, the different types of animals that come around during the type of...time of the year to know whether our wet season is going to be longer or shorter. You know those kind of generational knowledge I think needs to be supported in our farming industry, and I think more classes like that and more funding should be available for programs like that. Other than that, yeah, I just want to really stress that we do not need to be giving any more money to the tourism industry. We have parks...I have a park right

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around the corner in Hale Pi'ilani here in Kihei that I told the Council about three years ago, four years ago. It burned down when I was a kid. I'm 31 years old now and there still is no park for the kids and our residents. A new development has just been built next to, in Hale Pi'ilani and they have a park, but our old development still does not have a park. These are things that our money should be going to, supporting our communities, supporting our parks, yeah, just getting the money back into our communities rather than to people that don't even live here. You know and if there is any money going into the tourism industry, it needs to be education. It does not to be advertising, we don't need to be sending people to New York to wine and dine with the tourism industry of New York and send them to New Orleans to wine and dine with the tourism industry of New Orleans. Our money needs to come back home and start supporting our people. And yeah, it starts with farming. Get us away from supporting 90 percent on imported goods. And that's about all I have to say today. Mahalo nui for your time. I hope everybody is healthy and wealthy with . . .(inaudible). . . Yeah. Okay. A hui hou.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: A hui hou. Mahalo. Perfect timing.

MR. ELABAN-MANUWA: Okay, a hui hou.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Will you please identify your last name one more time or repeat your last name?

MR. ELABAN-MANUWA: Elaban-Manuwa.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Manuwa, okay. Mahalo. Mahalo for your testimony today.

MR. ELABAN-MANUWA: Okay. Yeah, `a`ole pilikia . A hui hou.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Maika`i. Okay. We've reestablished connection with Rod Antone. Mr. Antone? Okay, I guess we lost him again. Okay. Okay, our next testifier is Christopher O'Brien with Sustainable Molokai, followed by Duke Johnson. Mr. O'Brien, if you could please unmute yourself. Okay, I got you. Okay.

MR. O'BRIEN: Okay. Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Christopher O'Brien and Director of Ag Development at Sustainable Molokai. We are a current Maui County grantee from OED for our food sovereignty program including our value-added project to help farmers and producers turn their food imports into higher value products for sale. Mahalo to the Council for supporting those programs. As our mission is to restore `aina momona or abundant land to Molokai, we are engaged in activities to grow new food producers and support current food producers with the long-term vision of ending our island's dependence on imports and restoring our natural wealth. Especially for an island where over 60 percent of the population relies on SNAP or EBT for food due to lack of economic opportunities. I am here today to express that our mission more than ever is vitally important for not only our community's health and our individual health but also our County's economic health. And we need the Council's support in prioritizing expanding ag funding and reducing tourism funding.

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Currently with Federal support, our organization is one of the primary sources of ag and food production education on the island of Molokai. UH Maui shut down the Molokai ag program last year. We are actually in the middle of training new farmers and egg producers as well as providing internships at host farm sites when the pandemic and government measures came down. Immediately we were contacted as the only food hub on Molokai to help coordinate emergency food relief efforts as well as to protect our island's food chain which is vital to minimizing our island's dependence on food imports during this period where potential disruptions might impact the flow of food produced off-island to Molokai. We are helping to build a coalition among numerous Molokai organizations, nonprofits, agencies, farmers, hunters, and fishers to get food distributed to our local food bank organizations. Additionally, we already had more applicants to our programs than available funding. And since the shutdown, we have received a large volume of new inquiries from residents wanting to get access to seeds, plant starts, and curriculum in order to start growing food at home. Now more than ever this pandemic has shown why our organization's mission is vital and why the County of Maui needs to increase agricultural funding not only to grow new farmers, new businesses, and new products but to help restore our island wealth and abundance rooted in sustainability. Food is always in demand, tourism is not. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. O'Brien. Committee Vice-Chair King and then Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Aloha, Mr. O'Brien. Thank you for your call. I had two questions for you, one, do you have any funding in this current budget, in the Mayor's Budget? Mr. O'Brien?

MR. O'BRIEN: Yeah. We did receive \$10,000 from Office of Economic Development to do value added...

VICE-CHAIR KING: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . for the next year.

MR. O'BRIEN: Oh sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Do you have anything for the next year's budget?

MR. O'BRIEN: Oh no. Sorry. No, we don't.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. And then you didn't receive any assistance from the Farmer Apprentice Mentorship Program that was supposed to be expanding to Molokai? Are you working with them?

MR. O'BRIEN: I know we have been in talks with expanding to them...with FAM, sorry. The reason why we haven't started yet was because at least for this year alone we had enough funding for the current slate of interns that we had. And so, we were in conversations with FAM about potentially...because we know FAM already had like an allotment specifically for Molokai --

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Right.

MR. O'BRIEN: --and so we were in conversations with them to see if we could push that funding back at least for the internship part of our program to next year.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. All right, thank you.

MR. O'BRIEN: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, just clarifying, you're not asking for money right now?

MR. O'BRIEN: Not specifically right now for our organization. In general, we would want to see like an increase in agricultural funding across the slate. In terms of our own programs there are rooms for our programs to expand, and so if there is an increase in agricultural funding and there's availability, we could use more funding to expand our current programs that we're offering in farmer training.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you, Chair.

MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Mahalo for your testimony today, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll go to Duke Johnson next, followed by phone number 927-7637. Mr. Johnson?

MR. JOHNSON: Hello?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Aloha, Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: Hello. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay, can you hear me now? Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, it's better now.

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MR. JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Duke...okay. My name is Duke Johnson and I'm a contractor and a handyman on the west side of Maui and I do a lot of maintenance inside the hotels, condos, and resorts. And, you know, despite everything going on, I realize that even without the tourism, I'm still able to, you know, scratch up money working for locals, and it's made me realize that the money that's coming in from tourism it's been a crutch that people, you know, simply counted on and depended on while neglecting the fact that we need to take care of ourselves and we have enough ability to take care of ourselves here. I've kind of seen like as growing up out here, the change in the type of tourists that are coming out, and I see there's been all this push to advertise and sell Hawai'i and Hawai'i this, put it on Wheel of Fortune. The quality of our tourism has gone down. You know, if there is money that is going to be spent on tourism, it needs to be put into educating the people that are coming out, to not mock us when we tell them don't use sunscreen or don't use plastics. Try use a recyclable bottle instead of a water bottle. We have such a tight ecosystem out here that people forget that they, you know, they've saved up for ten years to come out here on vacation and they treat it like Vegas, they treat it like Mexico where they're just, you know, drinking cocktails at the pool and going out and puking on the beach, not cool, there's no respect for the island. I understand that, you know, money is going to be put to where money is going to go, I just hope that the tourists that, you know, come out are educated by the tourism program. And hopefully the money goes, if it doesn't go into tourism, hopefully it goes into our own agricultural program, because we have some of the most fertile soil in the entire nation that's been growing sugar and pineapple for over a hundred years, but yet now all we're doing is we're growing dustbowl and more subdivisions and hotels. The money should...I mean I don't know that much about farming, I know how to build stuff, but I feel like the money should be put into a way of advertising Hawaiian produce on the mainland. Let's sell our stuff to them, you know. We don't have as much of a water crisis out here if we use it to grow the food instead of put it on our golf courses. And I don't know, I just think there needs to be, you know, more thought put into the way that people are using money. And hopefully to benefit the people that are here. And I'm sorry I don't come off that articulate but that's about all I can say I think. I hope that helps out.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Johnson, for your testimony. You were articulate enough.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Have a good day. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. We'll check with Kai Nishiki. Kai Nishiki?

MS. NISHIKI: Hi.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Please proceed.

MS. NISHIKI: Mahalo. Sorry I wasn't available earlier. Thank you for allowing this opportunity to accept public testimony remotely. We've been asking for this for years so thank you so much. I am the current Chair of the West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee and also a member of the Mayor's Tourism Advisory Committee.

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And I am testifying as an individual today though. Through those experiences I have seen firsthand the danger of depending on tourism as our only means of economic generation, and as part of the West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee, we have done a lot of research, and as part of our goals, we are trying to promote diversification. And I'll just read from a couple of our policy recommendations. West Maui plays a key role in the economy of Maui County, it is one of the island's largest employment centers with a very high concentration of jobs related to the visitor industry; however, this concentration leaves the region particularly vulnerable to downturns in the tourism economy. Maui County's economy continues to be more dependent on tourism than any other county in the State of Hawai'i. And in a recent Maui News article, February 29th, it states that the Maui Visitors Bureau is funded the most generously of all counties in Hawai'i, with 4 million in 2018 and 3 million in 2019. By contrast, Hawai'i County gives 325,000 and Kauai gives 215,000 and Honolulu County gives nothing. And I say where has this gotten us? Now, Maui County is number one amongst one of the top areas in the nation for job losses. So, I really feel that with the over \$100 million given to Hawai'i Tourism Authority from the State Transient Accommodations Tax each year, that that money should be adequate for promotion and Maui County does not need to be giving any more money for promotion. We have experienced almost a decade of record-breaking arrivals of visitors decimating our environment, infrastructure, and the quality of life for our residents. Living in West Maui and experiencing the response of the visitor industry during the fires and the floods has been an eye-opening experience. A Red Cross volunteer called Maui Visitors Bureau during...when the floods were impacting West Maui, and they were told that the Maui Visitors Bureau didn't want local residents in the same ballrooms as visitors and so they denied the request to have people shelter at the ballrooms. So, I just feel like their response has not been pono. Even in this crisis, there has been a response of lowering fares and increasing visitor attraction to Maui, and that is just not the right response. We need to be decreasing the funding to Maui Visitors Bureau, and I would suggest that the max given to them is 500,000 and a focus be on producing food and making our community strong and vibrant through innovation and collaboration into new industries. And I very much support farmers, so mahalo very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Nishiki, for your testimony. Okay. Our next testifier is phone number 927-7637.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Nine two seven, seven six three seven.

MS. AARONA: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Please identify yourself for...

MS. AARONA: Yes. Mahalo, Councilmember...Chair Rawlins. My name is Mapuana Aarona, also known as Aunty Mopsy, Protect Paia. And mahalo for allowing me to give testimony today. And what I come to you with testimony, I also sent in an e-mail

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testimony but I was able to be home to share my manao with you and the Councilmembers. I am in support of Mayor Victorino's pledge of 250k to the Ke`alaokamaile Hālau building fund. You know, through the art of hula and for us hula is life, it teaches us to speak, to smell, touch, and taste all of what has been handed down to us in our chants and mele. The stories tell us of how our ancestors lived their lives and how the lifestyle is handed down through generations. With this knowledge comes kuleana. Hālau Ke`alaokamaile directed by Kumu Hula Keali'i Reichel has expected this kuleana to perpetuate our traditional Hawaiian education values. The students will have a permanent place to enrich their knowledge, and planning of these cultural events will make it easier to have community involvement. A donation of a four-acre parcel has been donated by Hōkūnui Maui LLC who has also accepted the kuleana in a joint effort to create a cultural resource center for the hālau and the community. So much has been taken away from our Hawaiian culture, but we continue to grow with our language, our genealogy, our planting of plants for adornment and sustainability. Our families from hālau and the community continue the work the land planting various plants. The hālau continues to work hard in raising money for this project. Please allow this kuleana to happen through your nonprofit grants so our culture and our knowledge continues to live within the shelter of this cultural resource center and the `aina. Our keiki will benefit through your generosity and the leadership of this project. Mahalo and aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Aaron. Our next testifier is...we'll check with 704-6483 and 357-0274 one more time. Three five seven, zero two seven four.

MS. WALKER: Yes. Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. WALKER: Three five seven, zero two seven four. Hello? Hello?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, are you ready to testify? Hi.

MS. WALKER: Yes. Hi.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please proceed with your testimony.

MS. WALKER: Okay. I'm sorry, this is my first time using this program. Okay. My name is Elena Walker and I'm the Treasurer and Events Coordinator for the Maui County Veterans Council. On behalf of the Maui County Veterans Council, MCVC, we are here today to thank you for your generous support of our organization and the Maui County veterans. We have several veteran organizations that are a part of MCVC membership. As a group we provide programs and events to honor, create awareness, and outreach to our Maui County veterans and families and to the Maui community. In this time of social distancing and social gathering, we have cancelled our MCVC monthly meetings and other veteran organizational meetings. Also, we have cancelled some of our upcoming veterans events such as the Vietnam War fallen candlelight service at the War Memorial on April 30th, the Korean War candlelight service at War

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Memorial on June 25th, and the Na Koa Kahiko Wahine annual tribute. As to the Memorial Day ceremony on May 25th, we have just a small...we may have just a small gathering of people for our fallen veterans who are buried at Makawao Veterans Cemetery. By placing 3,500 flags on the individual graves and decorate our War Memorial monuments to honor our fallen veterans, we plan to work with the Mayor's Office for further announcements. There are other ongoing events and fundraisers that have been cancelled until further notice. As to our veteran services throughout Maui, the following offices are closed yet their phone lines are still available for further information. They are as follows: the Maui Vet Center, 808-242-8557; CBOC which is our community-based outreach [sic] clinic; Veterans Benefits Office; and Office of Veteran Services. Please call the Maui Vet Center for the phone number of the veteran services at 242-8557. In close, we greatly appreciate the County Council for their support in providing us funding for our veteran organizations and ongoing veteran events. We're working with the Managing Director and staff regarding our County grant and look forward to your continued support during the grant process for Maui County Veterans Council. Thank you for your time and consideration.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Walker. Would you be available later as a resource?

MS. WALKER: I'm sorry?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll have Staff call you after. Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Walker.

MS. WALKER: Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. The next testifier we'll check with 916-704-6483. Okay. Testifier 81 is Maui Mina out of 83 testifiers. Okay. Our next testifier is Mel --

MR. MINA: I'm here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --and followed by Derek Barr.

MR. MINA: Chair? Chair, can you hear me?

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

MR. MINA: Aloha. Sorry, I have a difficult time with this program. Aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Maui County Council. My name is Vincent Mina. I am the President of Hawai'i Farmers Union United. Really appreciate all of the passion around agriculture that has been testifying today. It's a testament to the work that's been put in all these years around our local agriculture, in support of our local agriculture. As my wife Irene testified earlier today, we started our farm, our family farm in 1994 and back then we didn't have a farm apprentice mentoring program. Our business plan was dig a hole and jump in it, and thankfully, you know, over the years when we became successful at farming through our just dogged passion around

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doing it, we noticed that there needed to be a level of awareness raised in the community. And so in 1998 as President of Hawai'i Organic Farmers Association, we held our first soil health conference up at the Ag Park in 'Ōma'opio. And then in 2001 with County support from a \$5,000 grant from HOFA, I was able to get all this altruistic donations of speakers and hotel rooms and venue and everything to hold our first Body And Soil Conference exploring the relationship between our bodies and the soil on Maui Tropical Plantation land. And then we built those conferences for 12 years. In 2000...I sat on the Farm Bureau board from 2005 to 2008 looking to make a difference locally. When I was having difficulty getting soil help on the agenda and this is not to throw Farm Bureau under the bus in any respect because I feel they're doing valued work in this community and I work closely with Randy Cabral the President on the State Board of Agriculture. But when I saw that soil health wasn't on the agenda, they were dealing with a bunch of other stuff, I then looked into the National Farmers Union and getting a chapter here on, in Hawai'i. And from two...so, I couldn't...I was told...I went looking for members and I found a lady on the Big Island as a member, and she said that she was interested in getting a chapter going so I supported that because that's what I wanted to see occur. Turns out she wanted to turn it into an anti-GMO organization. I was the only farmer on that board and I went you know what, I'm...we already have anti organizations, I want to be about solution, I want this organization to be about raising people up and raising the awareness on what we need to do as farmers and as a community, be a healthy community. So, fast forward, I became President in 2012, the Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program as you've heard today was developed around 2015 and today is an active program within HFUU. So, for me it's a situation where as State President of the organization, this is not a Maui-centric organization; although, we truly value the support of Maui and we want to encourage other counties to support agriculture as Maui is supporting agriculture. And Mayor Victorino coming forward with the money for...to roll out for...to feed people, Farm Bureau is doing a buying program . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Yeah, so e kala mai, my time is at an end. But if any need for clarification, I'd be happy to clarify. But I just wanted to tell, you know, finish up with by saying that we are involved in a program to feed Maui's people and the State right now by being able to aggregate food pivoting away from the hotels and restaurants and into CSA boxes to where we could pull produce from around the State, because each region is so different and has a variety of produce, and then put that into a box where people can get access to it. So, thank you for your time, appreciate it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Mina. Member Sugimura has requested you to serve as a resource. Will you be available later when this item comes up?

MR. MINA: Yes, I will. And I would appreciate you could also have our Vice-President who is the administrator of the FAM Program, Anny Bruch, who just testified earlier to be also available.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Sugimura had requested her as well.

MR. MINA: Oh, thank you. Okay, great.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, if you can send your contact information to Staff at edb.committee@mauicounty.us and we'll contact you when the item comes up.

MR. MINA: Thank you, dear. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. MINA: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. Next is Mel, followed by our last testifier, Derek Barr.

MS. EISENHART: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. EISENHART: Thank you for letting me testify. My name is Maui Mel, I'm Melissa Eisenhart. I run the Keiki Clothing Exchange in Kihei. We've been around for almost four years now and we supply for free books, toys, clothing, diapers, formula for families in need. We started as a very small group of ten moms in the park and have grown to a nonprofit that serves over...between 300 to 400 families each month at our monthly event. A year ago when I took over, they, the first thing I asked was our people is what they needed, and the first thing nearly all of our people said was that they needed food. They needed help getting food. And that was a year ago when times were much better. So now during this Covid event, I have people messaging me almost daily wanting to know where can they find food, how can they get food, and these are people who work in the hospitality industry. They worked in tourism and still could not afford to feed their families or buy their kids new clothes. So, we need to be moving money from the tourism industry that has been being used to advertise it and actually letting these people be able to buy clothing for their children, to be able to buy food for their families. They shouldn't be having to beg for handouts when they're working full-time jobs in tourism. So, we need to make ourselves more sustainable, we need to be able to feed ourselves, and that needs to be on multiple different fronts. It needs to be educating and helping people learn how to make gardens. It needs to be in allowing people to get seeds and get all the things that need to be started for a garden in their home. It needs to be in supporting people with these larger ag areas. Like our previous caller Cara said, they have to choose between whether or not they farm their...they can't farm because they have to work in order to be able to pay their mortgage. So, we need to help in these ways to make ourselves completely and fully self-sustaining on food. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Eisenhart. Would you mind repeating what organization you're with? I'm sorry I missed that.

MS. EISENHART: We are the Keiki Clothing Exchange in Kihei.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo for your testimony.

MS. EISENHART: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, our last testifier signed up is Derek Barr.

MR. BARR: Aloha, board and Chair. Can you hear me well?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. BARR: Thank you. My name is Derek Barr, I live in the moku of Hamakualoa in the ahupua`a of Kuiaha. I was born and raised on the islands and I tend to the land as well as I can. Like any farmer that has spoken today, the majority of my time goes to the crops that I'm trying to raise, and my interest in testifying today is based on the FAM Program that could potentially be called the Maui Farm Family...or sorry, the Maui Family Farmer Training Network. Listening today, I have heard inconsistencies in board members that were on the same council. I would like to implore that you guys do your research as far as who started the FAM Program, in what channels was it meant to go through. And if you could legally request the minutes for such a meeting, I feel it would put a great bit of this emotional distress we've been hearing today at rest. I come from a neutral standpoint. I feel that Phyllis and Georgia have run a great program. I feel that Uncle George or Uncle Bobby and Vincent and John and the successful farmers could also run a great program. But now it is a legal battle. Unfortunately, they have fired a disabled woman who has given her heart to this program, and the Farmers Union is currently suing a woman that is expecting child in the recent coming months. And I would like this to be put to rest, so if there's a way that you guys could request the minutes for the meeting that started FAM, I would much appreciate it. And look into the testimonies because we have and no such information has been brought forward to the table so I would appreciate it much. Thank you, Council, for your time, I appreciate it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Barr. Okay. Is there anyone signed up that I haven't called that would like to provide testimony? I see someone named Maggie, is Maggie trying to testify? Annie Alvarado?

MS. ALVARADO: Yes?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are you wishing to testify?

MS. ALVARADO: Yes, I'd like to testify in support of keeping the FAM Program with the Hawai'i Farmers Union. I think that this should be run by farmers. I serve as the Statewide treasurer for the Farmers Union. We're very fiscally responsible. We have great farmers that have...work very hard and great aspirations, and I know that all of our genuine interest is to work for what's best in the community. And I know that's what you all want from us as well. So, please know that we will continue to do good work and be able to deliver really good products for our community to enjoy.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Alvarado.

MS. ALVARADO: Mahalo for the opportunity.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Is anyone else wishing to testify? Okay, hearing no one unmuting themselves, I will close oral testimony. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Members. Mahalo. Okay, oral testimony is now closed. Okay. There are three pages of written testimony. I can do it really quickly. Okay. We...six testimony for Maui Visitors Bureau from Sherry Duong, Janet Clark, Scott McGill, Bruce Moore, Marc Bromley, Joseph Pluta. Two testimony in regards to Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Rick Volner, Joe Balangitao Jr. One testimony for, in regard to Mediation Services of Maui from Bevanne Bowers. One from Suzanne Antounian for Maui Adult Daycare Centers. Eleven testimony regarding Office Safety Officers from Jade Chihara, Jordan Ng, Anthony, Brad Quinto, James Hernandez, Ryan Cabrera, Etan Krupnick, Chris Saito, Ohana Kuailani, Andrew Perry, and Melissa Harding. Two testimony for, in regards to Pā`ia Youth and Cultural Center and Mālama Pono Project Venture, one, Mathew Murasko, two, Rhonda Fosbinder. And my time is up. Okay, and then one testimony for Maui County Childcare Subsidy, Beverlie Vilorio. One testimony in regards to Ho`oulu Nā Kamali`i Youth Program...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: As long as your feet are clean.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I got you, Alice. For Ho`oulu Nā Kamali`i Youth Program from Leslie Lau Hee with submitting written testimonies from Heather and Brayden Kanekoa, Richelle Lu, Marsee Ho`opai, Lovenia Love, and Trey Lu. One testimony from...regards to Share Your Mana from Lisa Darcy. Two in regards to Maui Nui Marine Resource Council from Marjorie Bonar and Janet Mercer. Two from Mental Health America Hawai`i, one, Mona Cherry, two, Marcial Basbas. Eight testimony in regards to Maui AIDS Foundation, Bryan Chin, Victor Sapelbwey, Cassie Coffin, Cory Michelle Hall, Mana Shaw, Chasity Nohea [sic] Cadaoas, Amanda Ribao, and Jackie Moren. Twenty-one testimony regarding FAM Program from Christine Davis, Jenn Atkinson, Melissa Reickert, Francis Spalluto, Lee Louise Mackessy, Tara Grace, Emily Hoke, Steven Sanborn, Rena Blumberg, Jared Burkett, Joey Mella, Lisa Chakmak, Jessica Blaylock, Elizabeth Barretto, John Dobovan, Phyllis Robinson, Serena Shipp, Dar Swajka, William Ricks, Lisa Chakmak, Matthew Van Paepeghem. Two testimony in regards to Hale Mahaolu Homeownership and Housing Counseling Program from Marlynn Tanji and from Melissa and Kaleo Padilla. One for Habitat for Humanity, Sherri Dodson. Three in regards to the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, from Deidre Tegardan, Brian Moto, and Leonard Oka. Okay. Testimony in regards to Ke`alaokamaile Halau grant, from Cordy MacLaughlin, Doreen Canto, Tiare Lawrence,

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Hokulani Holt, Pah Pray, Mapuana Aaron. Five in regards to Maui Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Monica Kramp, Leilani Yamauchi, Kekoa Enomoto, Elli Funakoshi, submitting written testimony from Alex Franco, General Manager, Maui Cattle Company, five, James Nobriga. One testimony in regards to Common Ground Collective, John Dobovan. One in regards to Maui School Garden Network, from Kacie Breault. One testimony in support of Mayor's housing initiatives - 5 percent for RPT, from RPT for Affordable Housing Fund and appropriation of \$3 million for the First Time Home Buyers Fund, from Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez. One testimony requesting funding for various programs in the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, from Nicole Huguenin. And one testimony in support of Made in Maui County Festival; and Maui Visitors Bureau. So, that was as of...these are all testimony from April 8th and 9th as of 7:30 this morning. Okay. So, any objections to accepting written testimony into the record?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Okay. So...

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair, I have a request.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Real quick. So, the schedule that we had for today was to have two hours of testimony and we went beyond that. And then we would have Department of Liquor Control up at 11:15 and then we would do Department of Management at 1:30 and then the Office of the Mayor at 2:30. I've been in touch with Budget Director Yoshimura and she let me know that the Administration would be okay with moving everything back by one hour so that we would start with Department of Management at 2:30 and Office of the Mayor at 3:30 or after the Management is pau. And then we would end with Department of Liquor Control. Okay, Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, thank you, Chair. I just wanted to request that we have Phyllis Robinson as a resource when we get to the farmers' program.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. You have her contact information?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah. She's been monitoring the meeting, so.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right, Members, so it's 1:19, let's...we can reconvene at 2:30 but let's get started right at 2:30.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No objections, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Wonderful. Okay. Good job, everyone. So, we'll take a break, a lunch break till 2:30. It's 1:19 on April 9 and the Economic Development and Budget Committee is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 1:19 p.m.
RECONVENE: 2:35 p.m.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(gavel).to the record for the public's benefit. After the two rounds of questions per Member, we will turn to the compiled priorities matrix for the next phase of which departments review. Each Member will...with a priority will be given two minutes to pitch it, then receive department comments for another two minutes, followed by a round of Q&A from the Members. Okay. And I've spoken with the Budget Director, to request departments' notes in writing, and mahalo to the Administration for agreeing to provide those responses. Okay. And mahalo again to Members, I know the Administration generally has, you know, months to put together the budget, and we have, you know, just a few hours with each department. So, I am very mindful of that as well and I appreciate everyone's really hard work in accomplishing this, especially during this crisis. So, are there any questions regarding the process? Okay, good. Okay, so there's been an adjustment to our timeline, we're starting with Department of Management so that...and then we'll be followed by the Office of the Mayor and then we'll have Liquor Control at the end.

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, we have with us from the Department of Management, Managing Director Sandy Baz. From IT...okay and then Managing Director Baz can introduce Mr. Verkerke. And we also have Budget Director Michele Yoshimura. Okay.

MR. BAZ: Good afternoon, everyone. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. BAZ: So, I have . . .(inaudible). . . right now is Jacob Verkerke, our Chief Technology Officer, and we do have other staff on call in case there's specific items related to certain things you might have questions on. I'll try to answer as best as I can everything, and if we can't and it's too lengthy, maybe we'll go...provide it to you in writing. And we will provide the responses to your questions in writing later on. So, we...Department of Management presented in front of EDB, I think that was...seems like a year ago but it was, I think it was a month, a month and a half ago, the actual functions and activities of our Department. And basically I want to just go over real quickly the Charter required mandate is that the Department of Management,

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specifically the Managing Director acts as the principal management aid to the Mayor, supervising all the administrative functions of the agencies, departments, boards, and commissions assigned by the Mayor. Evaluating the management and performance of each agency, prescribing the standards of administrative practice to be followed by the agencies under his or her supervision. Supervise and coordinate the functions described in the Mayor's Office related to budget and operations, and then perform all other duties, functions required by this Charter or as assigned by the Mayor. So, what we do in Department of Management is really kind of an oversight functional messaging of the County's self in the different operations of the Administration, overseeing the directors and the departments of the Administration and the Executive Branch, and providing management support and evaluation of their activities, implementing the Mayor's directives and his desires as far as the operations of the County and the services that we provide to our community. Along with that, we have some specifically assigned functions that have been enveloped into the Department of Management. The first and largest one is the Technology...Information Technology Services Division which Jacob oversees. That provides the assets that, you know, electronic and technology asset management as well as the services management related to technology for our whole County and except for Legislative Branch but we assist when we can and we can talk about that. It's actually been more so, we're happy to help with that as well. We have in our Department as well a Capital Improvement Project team. We have first of all the Capital Improvement Project manager, Program Manager that runs the overall aspect of what the County's CIP Program is about. Working with the different departments in evaluating the requests for any capital improvements, coordination between departments on certain things, and really is my key go-to when it comes to seeing, you know, what projects are ready to go. . . .(inaudible). . . especially this time right now we're looking at, you know, identifying those projects that are shovel ready and things that we can start to work on that will support recovery as well when we get into that. Then we also have implementation of policy items, vehicle usage policy and things like that, workforce policies that are related to equal employment opportunities, ADA, as well as the workplace violence policy, different things like that we manage. And then also our newly enveloped program which is the Redevelopment Program that participated in the projects, mostly the projects in Wailuku and redevelopment of that area in Wailuku. And that was assigned to the Department I think last fiscal year, and we're working on integrating that to our overall functionality and that's part of what we did in the proposal for our Fiscal Year '21 and was to actually envelope those staff that were assigned to that program into the overall functioning of the Management Program. So, we can get into details about that, Madam Chair. And so, the priorities of the Department of Management Program are not...they're, you know, pretty much . . .(inaudible). . . what we're doing. We didn't ask for new staff within the Department of Management Program. What we're doing is making sure that we're providing as much opportunity to meet the needs of the Mayor and the departments with the staff that we have. We're, you know, rearranging things as well. We're very happy with our new Deputy Director who actually just joined us who's hiding in the corner over there, Josiah Nishita. So, anyway, he's here as well. But looking at that, there are some increases to services that we're looking at within the functionality of the redevelopment area. Some in Wailuku with the implementation of related activities to

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our construction as well as there's been a desire to implement a clean and safe program in different areas of our community and especially in Lahaina is the first area that we're looking at expanding that to. And parking program, so that's a new functionality that we're looking at and trying to make sure that we're overall managing that. Not just in the Wailuku Redevelopment area but throughout the County so those are the things that we're working on and kind of the reasoning of taking the employees that were specifically in the MRA Program to be participating in the Management Program as a whole. I'm going to let, pause a little, let Jacob talk about priorities of his section and then we can get into questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mr. Verkerke, you have two minutes.

MR. VERKERKE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members. I think the Covid-19 crisis has demonstrated the critical function of IT services for an organization like ours. Government functions really rely on IT-provided functionality a lot more than we realized in the past. We in providing IT services are challenged for resources, resources both that are very familiar with the organization and resources that are very familiar with the various technologies we are tasked to manage. Also, the Covid-19 has demonstrated once more how many bad actors are out there that are trying to take advantage of a crisis situation like this by exploiting vulnerabilities in technology. So, all of that leads us to try to focus on improving the way we manage the IT, the technology services. We need to...we're as I said resource constrained and we need to both improve...increase the number of resources that are technically expert in the various technologies that are being developed every day that we are challenged to keep up with. There are people out there that do a much better job than we do so we would like to be able to tap into that technology and that expertise. But we also need to have people within the organization that can help find a good fit between the needs of the organization and the various opportunities that exist in the technology environment. So, we're looking for people with expertise in the various areas that can augment the role that our staff plays in understanding and meeting the needs of the organization. One of the needs that we need to keep focusing on of course is our ability to detect and prevent cyber threat. We also are looking to increase our ability to support the Maui Emergency Management Agency with GIS expertise. It's something that they have struggled with. We don't have enough resources at current levels to dedicate somebody to that so we're asking for your help in being able to provide consistent, informed GIS support for the various emergency response functions of MEMA.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Mr. Verkerke. Mahalo. Okay, so we're going to have the Members...each Member is going to have five minutes to ask a question. And I would like to ask on behalf of the Members if you could keep your responses to the Members concise as possible. If you're able to answer with a yes or no, please answer with a yes or no. And just everyone is trying to be mindful of the Department's time so if you could also just be mindful of the Members' time, they only have five minutes. Okay? Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King, are you ready?

VICE-CHAIR KING: I am. Thank you, Chair. Okay, so, Mr. Baz, this one I think is going to be for you and it's not a yes or no so just a heads-up. But I'm looking at the

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Management Program Book with the performance measures in it and I like the fact that there's focus on strategic planning and providing training for strategic planning. But can you give me an overview of your plan to provide training and then...and do evaluations and then your benchmarks, your timeline, and what are some of your benchmarks for measuring success beyond just numbers of workshops, you know, that people have attended? How are you going to measure success and achievements for the departments?

MR. BAZ: Okay, I'll try to keep my answer under five minutes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. BAZ: But so, you know, that's a really important factor of what we do as the Department of Management as you're aware. The idea of our strategic planning was something new this Administration, to have an overall Administration strategic plan. The departments, some of them have been doing strategic plans for years, some of them have been new at it. They had to do training on it from that level, and we have been working with different contractors within the departments to develop the Mayor's strategic plan into the departments and their functionalities for the future, making sure that, you know, what we are doing is meeting the needs of the constituents as well as the priorities of the Administration. So --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. BAZ: --initially we started off with strategic planning with the directors and the deputies as well as some of the key leadership team, and identified needs in our community, identified how those needs are being met currently within the departments and where there are gaps in those service provisions as well as focusing on specifically, you know, without... 'cause everything the County does or nearly everything the County does is really meeting the needs of the constituents, right? They're meeting needs of the services that we provide. So, to go and prioritize those is very difficult so what we looked at was identifying items that we could focus specifically on over the next, you know, two, four, six years. Basically, we looked at and came up with these five major functional areas that we have looked at to focus in on. And they're not, you know, secret stuff. One is affordable housing, you know, it's something we've been working on. Economic diversify, making sure that we don't just rely on tourism and but still supporting the industry as well because it is our major economic engine.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, not to cut off but I only have a minute or so left.

MR. BAZ: Yeah...

VICE-CHAIR KING: But one of my concerns is the benchmarks for measuring success, because, you know, I don't think we're that interested to see how many webinars or workshops people attended, but how are you going to actually measure if that's effective, if they've actually achieved the goals that we're trying to achieve for the community?

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MR. BAZ: Yeah. So, that's a very difficult thing to do, because it's not...we're not a manufacturing organization where we put, you know, if we produce a thousand widgets then we've been successful. What I do as far as the evaluation of the departments is a bunch of different levels. The departments provide to me a biweekly report which I analyze and review their activities to see what they're doing. And in that report, it provides to me some key challenges in their functions and, you know, constituent complaints as well as, you know, and the other items. I take into evaluation the...

VICE-CHAIR KING: Well, you know, can I give you an example? Like if one of the goals for Planning say is to shorten the permit time then you can look at the time that it takes to get a permit for certain things and you see if that has been shortened and you measure the actual outcome so that we know that we're serving the community better. So, that's just kind of what I'm looking for in that strategic planning assessment is have we achieved, you know, have we got more affordable housing available, just those different departments. And rather than measuring how many meetings people go to, measuring the actual outcomes of what their...that department exists for.

MR. BAZ: Right. I understand. For...well are you asking from the Department of Management standpoint or the County in general?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Well, no, just asking if the Management Department is interested in seeing the achievement so that you know that the strategic planning that they're going through has been successful, that they're actually setting goals --

MR. BAZ: Yeah. And...

VICE-CHAIR KING: --and, you know, trying to attain these goals.

MR. BAZ: Right. That's how I basically grade the departments is by evaluating a number of different inputs. They're not necessarily objective inputs like, you know, like I said, how, you know, we can't count the time necessarily of a permit application from application date to approval in every department, that doesn't work. So, I have to evaluate them on a number of different factors and it's sort of a subjective measurement, because everybody is different and we can't measure it just by a number of situations or a percentage or a date. And so...

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. And are you planning to do, like is this a biannual or annual...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Last question.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Just a timeline on the evaluations maybe.

MR. BAZ: They're ongoing. As far as the departments go, they're quarterly, I review their quarterly --

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. BAZ: --reports as well as the...and I am...will annually, the directors' themselves evaluation.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. And then, Managing Director Baz, we did receive feedback from the public who are watching that you sound muffled. Is there any way to sound a little clearer?

MR. BAZ: I can hold the microphone. Clearer, is that better? I'm not sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh okay, I see a lot of nodding head, so yes, it sounds better.

MR. BAZ: All right. Okay. Yeah, sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. BAZ: I...my voice is a little bit hoarse, I've been talking all day, dealing with the testing this morning. We had just within the first hour of our testing site, we had tested over 200 people, really just a big impact to our community. And so, we've had a pretty long day already and it's going so apologize for my voice.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good job, getting all that screening and testing done over there. Mahalo. We're going to go with Member Sinenci, followed by Member Molina. Member Sinenci, are you ready?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Thank you, Director Baz. I guess my...while I have you here, I just wanted to get an update on the archaeologist position. If you received any interest, some resumes, and what is your target date for filling the position.

MR. BAZ: We did receive applications, a few of them just last week so I've asked the Department of Personnel Services to evaluate the applications and see if they meet the minimum qualifications, and they will provide me a list of everyone who meets the minimum qualifications so that I can start the interview process. So, hopefully, you know, if it takes them another few weeks to evaluate all of the resumes and, you know, confirm everything on there, get the list then, you know, hopefully by May, I can do interviews and fill another position.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you, Director. Then on Page 340 it looks like at the bottom for Equivalent/Personnel Summary by Program, it looks like the Maui Redevelopment Program was moved to the Management Program. And so, will their job descriptions change under the Management Program?

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MR. BAZ: To a certain extent they have already but yeah, they're going to be focusing still on the functions that we're working on within the Wailuku Redevelopment Area and the projects over there but also adding additional responsibilities to their functions. You know, we have now an archaeologist...first of all, we hope to have an archaeologist shortly, we have an architect, an engineer, a planner within my Department as well as, you know, our head program manager. So, that opportunity for us to be able to support the County in general with capital improvement expertise has really grown, and we want to make sure that we can utilize that across the County and not just in the Wailuku Redevelopment Area for that specific project. So, I have asked that that be coordinated into the same program so that we don't have to worry about which program is funding their activities and they can provide services to the whole County.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you. And then on the same page under equipment, there's a 138.4 percent increase for machinery and equipment, and I was just wondering what is that increase for?

MR. BAZ: That will be within the IT Services Division so I can allow Jacob to respond to that if you'd like?

MR. VERKERKE: Member Sinenci, the biggest component of that increase is the \$950,000 cost item for us to replace 3 large, uninterruptable power supply systems for 2 data centers and...on Maui and the dispatch center in Molokai. The age of those systems is such that it would cost more to replace them...it costs more to upgrade them than to replace them, and the need to upgrade was made clear to us because we had a problem with batteries in one of those systems that almost started a fire. So, this is something that's well overdue, and the risk of not doing it is so great that we felt we needed to address all three of them in the upcoming fiscal year. You will find the details on Page 354 and 355 of what specifically is identified under that category.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, Member Molina, are you ready?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I am ready, Madam Chair. You can start the clock.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. My first question is for Mr. Baz. A simple one, you know, because of our, you know, the Covid-19 and uncertainty with our revenue and I guess the trend is we're going to be looking at departments to see what areas they can do some, you know, potential cutbacks. One I was looking at is in the budget overview Page 348, under 54,000 for Wailuku dumpster fee, maintenance of festival lights, First Friday security, et cetera. Has that come under consideration for a possible reduction? Because it may be some time before we have First Friday events and things of that nature. Any thoughts? In ten words or less if possible. Nah, just kidding, you can go above ten.

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MR. BAZ: How about yes, how about that. I can answer yes. It has been evaluated.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: It has been evaluated. So, there...if you had to look at reducing by how much at this point?

MR. BAZ: Yeah, I'm not saying go ahead and cut the program. You know, we do want to...in all of this we want to come out of this and recover and still continue providing the wonderful things we did for our community. And we hope that, you know, especially things like First Friday, you know, those kind of events and once we get rid of this virus and actually people can spend time together again, we need to rebuild our society and we need to rebuild our community. And this is one of those things that I think are going to be beneficial to that fact. There are certain things that we could probably delay and, you know, we can work on that. You know if it's a specific mandate that you've provided to us to reduce by 5 percent, we can talk about that. But at this point, you know, we're looking at...the Mayor presented his budget based on what the functionality and...of the services we provide to the community would be for a fiscal year. Should those change, you know, and by July that, you know, we see that this is...we're not going to have started recovery, we're not going to be able to do what we can generally do with the community then we're going to have to readjust and, you know, depending on revenue outlooks, you know, we would withhold expenditure authorizations. Even if it goes through Council and gets approved, we would still withhold expenditure operations...authorizations before, you know, letting the departments just go ahead and go forward with their operations and activities.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. That's fine, Sandy. Appreciate it.

MR. BAZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good answer. And then one question for Mr. Verkerke, and I know, Jacob, you have...serve a very vital role for the County. Just continuing on your equipment upgrades, if you had a wish list, because, you know, it's becoming so much more important with cybersecurity and I know it's been a longstanding issue for the County about trying to get our equipment as upgraded as possible. Is this enough in your opinion or I mean how much more if you had your way would you need to enhance our cybersecurity? Because I know we want to get the best equipment out there as possible.

MR. VERKERKE: Member Molina, that's a very good question, and I'm tempted to give you a number but the problem is that money alone won't do the job. I have asked for all the money that I could use and work with, with the level of staffing that I have. We need to increase the number of staff that need to monitor and investigate and prevent cyberattacks with the tools that we have in place already. That is where I am most challenged right now. We actually with your support and with Homeland Security grants, we've been able to put together a fairly comprehensive suite of detection and prevention measures, but we fall short of using them to their fullest extent and

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especially during any forensic investigation when something lights up our alert systems that we have.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for your response, Mr. Verkerke. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, I don't have any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Hokama and then Member Paltin. Sorry, you're muted. Oh, I cannot unmute you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Yeah. No, I just was wondering --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: --if Mr. Molina was going to bid for Ms. Lee's five minutes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He had 30 seconds left.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: A thousand dollars.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: My question for Director Baz is some of the things that we've been hearing from other departments, Director Baz, and my question is under the Risk Management program area, while I can appreciate Corporation Counsel's work on it, I'm thinking that part of the effectiveness of full implementation of Risk Management should have some component through your office since you have the ability to communicate through all directors and all departments as our lead Management Department and lead Management personnel, that this may be something that we make plans for future adjustments down the road. Do you have any thoughts about the role of Management in implementation of a Countywide risk management program?

MR. BAZ: Sure. So, the Risk Management Division was moved from Department of Finance to Corporation Counsel a number of years ago to...

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, I understand.

MR. BAZ: Yeah. To assist with the coordination of that with the legal services. A lot of it has to do...connected with the attorneys and, you know, litigation, you know, defense or Workers Comp, that kind of stuff. We work very closely with Risk Management, in fact the Risk Manager and her staff have worked with us to develop a safety steering committee that either I or my Deputy are participating in on a regular basis. We work

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with them and help to enforce the functionality of risk management and across the board. And so, you know, while I appreciate the understanding that Department of Management and the Managing Director oversee all of the departments and can provide the authority to, you know, get them directives, to get them to do what we need them to do, the operations of it can be within other departments and they can work with us to implement those directives. So, we do work really closely with Risk Management.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay, I appreciate your response, Director Baz. And I'll save my next question for second round, Chair. And I appreciate seeing Mr. Verkerke there, so thank you very much for this opportunity at this time.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Baz, for being here. My first question is when is the estimated date of completion for the new County Service Center and what date do you expect them to move in by?

MR. BAZ: So, the Service Center first floor should be ready for occupancy at the end of the summer, beginning of fall this year. We are working on that. And then we also are working on getting the second floor ready. We're, our very, very aggressive goal would be before the end of this calendar year but most likely within the first month or two of this calendar year 2021. And we will be then, you know, getting people in there. We'll try to get all the construction done before we move any staff in there, but we may end up wanting to move staff on the first floor while it's completed and then they'll be doing just some final build-out on the second floor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How many floors total does it have?

MR. BAZ: Two.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh okay. And then the underground fuel storage tank is removed, where is that and what material will be used to fill the void that was left from the underground storage tank?

MR. BAZ: I'll let Jacob respond.

MR. VERKERKE: The underground storage is in the parking lot behind the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, the Old Courthouse, there's some of the parking stalls. We will have to work with the Department of Health and the contractor to find the proper fill material. At this point I do not know what that is, I'm not an expert, but once we have funding to contract that out, that will be one of the things that we will determine. But in all of that, we need to comply with the regulations managed by the Department of Health and the EPA.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much. Please keep me informed or us. My next question on the parking projects, do they have to be one contract deal or can they be separated? Like if Lahaina is ready to go, can we get that in place or does it have to be all at one time?

MR. BAZ: I'm sorry, repeat the question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The parking projects, does it have to be all at one time or can like Lahaina be separated out and implemented if it's ready to go?

MR. BAZ: Yeah, we were working with Chair Lee when she was the Infrastructure Committee Chair on working on getting Lahaina done first, and so we've been working on different protocols and trying to make sure that we have our ducks in order before coming to Council for approval. But we...it's something we could implement fairly soon.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, might be awesome like if when the tourists do come back, that's how it is now, you know? Just mentioning.

MR. BAZ: I've been thinking of things like that for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, yeah. And then on Page 348, the Maui County Veterans Council grant, we did have a testifier earlier today and she was talking about all these events but it seems like they won't be having them. And then I was wondering if...how that works out, like if it's just Carryover/Savings till next year, or do they have to pay for the events because they already were planned and now they want to kind of...just was wondering if you had any more detail.

MR. BAZ: The current grant, Fiscal Year '20 grant did have some event things. Yeah, we don't know if we're going to be able to provide the services like the Veterans Day item, things like that. We, if we have to delay them or if we have to not do them this year then there will probably be savings in that grant that we could either push over to the next year and/or, you know, or not, and they just won't spend the money.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you. And then I don't know if you heard us asking the other departments about a 50 percent travel reduction. Is that something that you're okay with? And then we would let you decide, you know, 'cause the per diems and all that stuff, airfare, but just the department summary travel category I guess.

MR. BAZ: Yeah. To a certain extent we could reduce travel, I don't know by 50 percent or not, but we definitely have been working more and more online, having web trainings, things like that. There are some significant benefits to actually going to trainings and actually participating in person. But yeah, I don't want to give up 50 percent of travel but we can talk about that. And it really just depends on what the future looks like. If this Covid-19 is going to be with us for --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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MR. BAZ: --years, then yeah, that will definitely impact all of our operations and activities, not just travel.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Hi, Sandy. Hi, Jacob. Nice seeing you. I wanted to in the same note as Member Hokama talking about the breadth of all your responsibilities, Sandy, we did talk about the departments looking at or I'm interested in the departments looking at the CIP projects to see if we can save cash and maybe transfer some of the expenses to General Fund...from General Fund to Bond Fund. So, I've been asking that question so kind of heads-up. Number two is that speaking of parking lots, I got a request for a bigger parking area for people who come to the County Building so they're not just scattered all over throughout the neighborhood. So, that's a new one. But I did get couple e-mails about that since we're talking about the new fiscal year or in the future, if you could keep that in the back of your mind. And then on the Veterans Council, you might want to talk to Elena Walker 'cause she came and testified before us and she basically said that a lot of the services or a lot of the candlelight services and the things that happen at the...services at the veterans cemetery are postponed for this year or cancelled for this year. So, Tamara's question was what I also had written down like what is the impact? And you could probably get back to us to see what that is, besides Carryover/Savings. And then the last is the MAPPS program. When do we anticipate that to be done? Is that a Mr. Verkerke answer...question?

MR. BAZ: Jacob Verkerke. Thank you.

MR. VERKERKE: Ms. Sugimura, our MAPPS is still projected to go live in February of 2021. We are moving through the various phases, wrapping up the most time-consuming phase right now which is refining and testing the functionality. Starting in June, we will do comprehensive end-to-end system testing, followed by training and user acceptance testing so that we are ready to deliver a quality product in February.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Of 2021, did you say?

MR. VERKERKE: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: February 2021...okay. That's all I have so I'll wait to hear back from you, Sandy Baz, on possible CIPs or from the departments and Veterans Council. Thank you.

MR. BAZ: Yeah, thank you. We'll work with the Budget Director on, you know, if there is a change in funding sources, maybe a cooperative effort.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I have no questions at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay, my turn. Okay. Aloha, Managing Director. Okay, so I wanted to get some clarification on some of the responses that were provided to the other Members' questions. First, for Mr. Verkerke, the 950,000 in power supply, is that a replacement or is that new equipment?

MR. VERKERKE: It's replacements.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Okay, and then for Managing Director Baz, for, you know, both First Friday and the Veteran Council's activities/events, for those that are cancelled are you looking...is there a policy...are you developing a policy to adjust the events that have been cancelled as of July 1st moving forward so that we wouldn't put funding into the Budget for events that have already been cancelled?

MR. BAZ: So, what we would do...what we have been doing is working with the grantees on...and mostly they're Economic Development grantees on when they're providing services or events, specifically events, they are...that can't be done, we're working with them on extending their grant so that they can utilize the funds to provide those events at a later date. And again, it really just depends on, you know, if we can loosen the restrictions come May 1st or July 1st or, you know, sometime, which we're not quite sure yet, then, you know, we hope to be able to provide those events and services to our community like I said. But what we could do is evaluate that closer to the start of the fiscal year and if they have a significant amount of Carryover/Savings in their grant then we would probably grant them less money for Fiscal Year '21. You understand? But they...if they had --

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

MR. BAZ: --\$20,000 this year and they could only spend 10,000 then instead of granting them an additional 20,000 next year, we might only grant them...let them use the 10,000 leftover and then grant them another 10,000. So, we have to evaluate that on a case-by-case basis.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Managing Director. Okay, and then for Mr. Verkerke, in your opening remarks you said that there was an increase of cyberattacks to Maui County. How much more attacks have we experienced if you're able to share that?

MR. VERKERKE: I do not have the numbers but I will be able to provide those to you in a day or so. But it's been considerable, and not just to Maui, it's across the board.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, are you talking about like e-mail scams and phishing or server attacks?

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MR. VERKERKE: I'm talking about that but I'm also talking about attempts to breach our environment, gain entrance into our network and systems. So, it's not just the e-mails and the phishing, it's a wide range of tactics that are being deployed right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. And I have one more minute. Okay. Will you please...okay, this is from the questions that were submitted. Will you please detail the computer software to be purchased and maintained with the request based on actual expenditures? That's question 23.

MR. BAZ: That was, you said 23?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. BAZ: So, the computer software that we have in there is we do couple different things...well, this is for Maui Redevelopment Program. I think it's not necessarily categorized correctly. We have the web services that we're providing, We...Live Wailuku [sic], those kind of things. Oh, you know we did purchase was like software for, the architectural software, that's very expensive and so we had to purchase that separately outside of IT's budget, and so we did buy that, and we get another license for that as well as some GIS tools so that our section can do their own GIS work as well. So, it's in addition to what IT Services provides. So, generally that's why the departments have their own software budgets.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Managing Director. Okay, Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. So, my...I just, I have two questions I think for Mr. Verkerke. My questions on the handout 27-8 and those page numbers were wrong there, it should be 10-19 in the Budget Detail about the life cycle replacement of this computer equipment. Can you just explain the replacement? You've got a really wide range of the age that it looks like we don't know how old they are currently, it says ages, on line one it says ages 5 to 10 years, on line two it says 5 to 15 years, and then most of those have estimated life cycles of 5 to 7 years. So, just wondering if this is something...if they are only five years old and it's something that could last for seven years and we need to put it off a year, how critical is that purchase?

MR. VERKERKE: Yeah, Member King, typically we buy equipment with factory maintenance and warranty for five years. That's all that the manufacturer will provide. Through circumstances we are sometimes forced to keep them in service longer than the factory maintenance, and then we switch to a labor and parts arrangement if we need to repair the equipment. At times that becomes a problem. So, it really is our goal to replace everything on the life, at the manufacturer's recommended lifecycle for five years. But through budget constraints or other needs sometimes we fall behind. Printers typically last longer than servers would and data storage devices, so that's why it's not just one device we're talking about here, it's a collection of devices and that's why you see a range of ages.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh okay. So, some of them are 5 years and some of them are up to 10 years or 15 years old?

MR. VERKERKE: That's correct.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, once you replace this, it...are you replacing different parts of it or are you replacing the entire system so that we'll have one whole system and we know when everything was bought and then we know when it becomes, all becomes five years old?

MR. VERKERKE: Yes, we try to keep everything within that range, but we don't necessarily try to buy a complete replacement set for everything we have in our data center at the same time, because then we would be faced with having to replace everything at the same time, and both from a standpoint of our resources being able to accomplish that much in a relatively short time is a challenge. And if we can't get it done quickly, our operational readiness and availability would be impacted. So, we try to stagger that a little bit, 'cause we have so much equipment in the data center that we can manage to keep 'em on a five-year cycle but staggered so that we don't have everything at the same purchase date and end date.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, the 950,000 that's a million dollars for UPS but that's not the complete system, that's a portion of it?

MR. VERKERKE: Yeah, the UPS are large installations in data center to make sure that all the servers and other equipment, the network switches in that data center have reliable power if the network power would fail us, and they bridge the gap between the generators starting up to provide power. So, that's a large piece of equipment in our data centers that is not servers or data storage or anything like that, it's strictly a number of controllers and cabinets full of batteries to provide that smooth power supply to servers that really don't like being deprived of power very long.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Okay, thank you for that. I just wanted to make...I just wanted to find out if that was the entire replacement or if that was a portion of the replacement because that's a million dollars there. Is it, it's really expensive equipment?

MR. VERKERKE: Yeah, that's not the complete inventory of uninterruptable power supply systems we have, but that's what needs most urgently to be replaced. We have --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. VERKERKE: --one other installation that will probably need to be replaced in a couple of years, but it won't cost as much as this round will.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. All right, that's all the questions I have, Chair. Yield the rest of my time.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. And then we'll go to Pro Temp Kama and work our way left this time.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I don't have any questions at this time either again.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Member Sugimura? Oh, unmute. One more time, try again. Okay. Okay, I got you. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I just wanted to, I know that the Administration is working really hard, Sandy, thanks for the Covid-19 responses. And I think you guys were out giving away food to those that needed it this morning and whatever else, but thanks a lot. I have nothing else.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Baz. I got one more question for right now and then I can take the rest in writing. It's number 35. I just wanted to clarify on the goals for number five, six, and seven. These aren't Countywide goals, they only apply to Wailuku, is that correct? This is Page 344 and 345 of the Program Budget. I can read the goals if you need them.

MR. BAZ: The goals five, six, and seven, generally...six is definitely...five here...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mitigate construction impacts to neighborhood businesses and users, manage publicly-owned spaces, which I mean would be great if it was all everywhere, but I'm assuming that you only are doing Wailuku or...I mean everywhere needs it.

MR. BAZ: Right. These are for Wailuku but as I mentioned we may be expanding these to different areas, especially like the Clean and Safe Program there has been a big request for us to start in Lahaina and we've actually kind of done some pilot programming over there already. So, it may be that these functionalities get expanded and maybe eventually transferred to another department as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you. I can take all the rest of the answers in writing.

MR. BAZ: Okay, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. And again I apologize for not being able to have heard all the responses earlier to some of the Members' questions, but I was wondering if...did...Mr. Verkerke, were you able to give us an updated completion of the MAPPS project? Do you have a new completion deadline for us on implementation?

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MR. VERKERKE: Mr. Hokama, the MAPPS project is scheduled to go live in February of 2021.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Twenty twenty-one. Is there any, have you encountered any additional unforeseen challenges regarding the implementation, Mr. Verkerke?

MR. VERKERKE: Are you talking about --

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Like incompatible programs...

MR. VERKERKE: --just the new challenges today or...there are challenges all the time because we are really trying to change how the County goes about its business of evaluating and issuing permits. So, the adjustment to business processes has been a big challenge. What we are faced with in the remainder of this calendar year is more broader organizational change management, especially for the community, the professional community, and external agencies like State agencies, that will be the big challenge we need to tackle this year to make sure everybody is ready to fully take advantage of the opportunities that MAPPS will offer.

MR. BAZ: Testing and training.

MR. VERKERKE: And that organizational change management includes training of a lot of users and training the community how they can use the online facilities rather than having to come into the office for everything.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Right.

MR. VERKERKE: So, that will be a challenge that we have to tackle.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, so I appreciate that response, Mr. Verkerke. So, if I can just as a follow-up, one of the things that Chair Lee has requested us to consider and I'm very open and I'm wondering if the system can utilize it is the ability for e-signatures on our documents. So, like within the MAPPS with the new type of maybe permit procedures and whatnot, are we capable to allow e-signatures versus actual physical signatures as a way to move the business forward for the County?

MR. VERKERKE: So, it is one of the success factors that was identified from the beginning for MAPPS that we move to that. I think that the Covid crisis has demonstrated the benefit of being able to do that. We think that we will get more interest and more cooperation from various agencies within and outside of the County to accomplish that. There is discussion at the Professional Board of Architects and Engineers [sic], and I haven't heard how that discussion is winding up to finally dispense with the requirement that plans need to have a wet signature. So, if...I think the Covid crisis drives the point home that maybe that is not so necessary after all. I think we will be able to go to electronic signatures on all the documents within the MAPPS environment.

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MR. BAZ: And, Mr. Hokama, if I might add, actually Corporation Counsel issued a memo on April 1st relating to processing of documents electronically, and they can process almost everything electronically with exceptions are deeds, easements, and other documents that are recorded with the Bureau of Conveyances or those that require original or wet signatures and notary. But, you know, there are quite a few documents that we're already transitioning to electronic signatures, again --

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Great.

MR. BAZ: --due to Covid-19.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Great. And my last question and again, gentlemen, if you need time to respond that's fine but I'll just ask. We've been on this together for a while, gentlemen, so I'm trying to recall how long have we been delayed from our original completion date where we're supposed to go live? And then my follow-up to that would be if there was additional costs incurred because of the delay, who ate the costs? Was it the contractor or did we charge specific departments the additional expenses? So, if you folks could respond to that, that would be wonderful. Thank you.

MR. VERKERKE: I can give you a quick response. The contract was always a fixed-bid contract so even though we have spent about two years more on the project than we had expected, the only additional costs that have been incurred is when departments decided to add to the scope. But the time factor itself has not resulted in additional costs to the project.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Verkerke. Chair, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sandy, I thought I heard you say that the Liquor Department and Transportation Department will be moving down to the Service Center probably the end of the year or early next year?

MR. BAZ: Yes, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. BAZ: So, they're going to be going to the second floor. So, it...the exact timing depends on when we finish construction of the second floor.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And you know that we've been wanting to take those offices that they vacate at the HGEA, right? You know that yeah?

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MR. BAZ: Yes. I haven't had conversations with HGEA about it yet. I think our Real Property Manager did but I can confirm that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. You mean Guy Hironaka? Who?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, Guy Hironaka.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh okay.

MR. BAZ: Guy.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: All right. And then so because we would like to move our Clerk, Office of County Clerk over there and then renovate the 7th Floor to accommodate a couple of Councilmembers' offices and expansion of OCS. So, I just want to make sure that you're aware of it and, you know, if things come up, if you could keep us appraised because --

MR. BAZ: Definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: --we're kind of living in tight quarters. You know it's been that way from the beginning of time, so.

MR. BAZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I appreciate it if you just let me know when things come up, and we can begin to start planning and moving toward our goal. Thank you.

MR. BAZ: Yeah, I'll give you updates. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just got question for Mr. Baz. My colleague Ms. Paltin kind of inspired me to ask this question. It was related to the veterans getting their grants and their events if they have to reschedule or postpone. Now in my district, we have the Haiku Hoolaulea which was cancelled. Will events like that lose their funding if it is delayed into the next fiscal year? I know Director Yoshimura is back there, I don't know if she'd like to chime in on that. And if a nonprofit received a grant and had to cancel the event, would they still be required to pay back the grant due to something like the Covid-19 or pandemic and I guess what would be deemed as an emergency situation?

MR. BAZ: So, every grant we're looking at and evaluating on a case-by-case basis depending on the different circumstances. And that question would probably be more appropriate for our OED Director --

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: OED.

MR. BAZ: --Kay Fukumoto. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, thank you. I thought I'd ask you early on but that's all right. Okay, I'll save it for OED. Thank you, Mr. Baz and Mr. Verkerke and Director Yoshimura. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just got a couple more questions. You know, Director, many of the other departments have cut their travel budgets in half and so it looks like you have an increase for travel. And I know during this pandemic time is it necessary or can you explain the increase in travel?

MR. BAZ: Within the Management Program we had a slight increase in travel just related to trainings that are required, especially for ADA and EEO trainings, the equal employment opportunity trainings that are our specialist needs to attend. Some of those we can transition to online, some of them we can't, but we will look at restricting travel. And the Mayor is looking at that in general. As you know right now, all of course out-of-state travel is restricted. And he had restricted it prior to any mandates by the Governor. And I'm pretty sure that he's going to continue that for a time period until we understand exactly our economic vitality of our community. So, whether...yeah, whether it's cut at the Council-adopted level or whether it's restricted from the Administration, we're all going to be doing that. Same thing with IT services.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you, Director, for that. And then one more question, Chair. Can you provide justifications for the five expansion positions in the Information Technology Services Division, GIS Analysts on Page 355?

MR. VERKERKE: Member Sinenci, it would probably take more time than I have to answer you, but I have answered that in writing to a similar question that was posed to us. So, I think you will find the full justification and description in our answer to the questions which I believe has been transmitted.

MR. BAZ: We will be transmitting...

MR. VERKERKE: Okay, so you will get that answer in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you, Mr. Verkerke. Thank you, Chair.

MR. VERKERKE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Okay. So, quick clarification question regarding the Maui County Veterans Council. You said that it's OED that manages that grant but the grant funding itself falls under Management?

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MR. BAZ: No, my Executive Assistant Saumalu manages that grant directly. I understood Mr. Molina's question to be more related to general grant opportunities. Specifically with the veteran grants, Saumalu is working with them on extending their funding availability until next year and then we'll be evaluating how much money they need in the future.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Okay. So, this is Member Kama's question but I...she didn't want to ask it but I want to ask it. It's question 21. Why is the Maui Redevelopment Program budget being combined with the Management Program? What are the advantages and disadvantages of that approach?

MR. BAZ: Okay. So, I sort of addressed this early on in the discussion of the program itself. The functionality of the employees that are within the Maui Redevelopment Program go beyond the specific scope of what the program is, was originally set for. You know, looking at just the Wailuku redevelopment and the infrastructure improvements and facility improvements that are planned for that area, the staff expertise and skills benefits the County as a whole much better than just that one program. And so, what we've done is requested to combine all of that staff so that they can efficiently provide services to the whole County, especially those departments that don't have CIP coordinators. They provide project management oversight. Having an architect and engineer on staff and a planner makes it so that when we're looking at projects like the parking improvements over here in Wailuku, when we're looking at some of the future plans for this complex, as well as for the acreage that we have in Waikapu for our baseyards and other large, you know, the Service Center is another good example where it's cross departmental, the staff really has a good expertise handle so I want to be able to utilize them for more than just that type of function.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. BAZ: I believe that their skills and their time can be better utilized in general.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, how would Mr. Taylor as the CIP Coordinator, where does he fit in with that?

MR. BAZ: So, Dave Taylor is our Capital Improvement Program Manager or Program Coordinator. Rather than an individual project, he is managing the Service Center project right now, but overall he works with the departments in developing their programs, their six-year plans. He works very closely with the Budget Office in evaluating the departments' requests and timeliness, and making sure that those departments have...are requesting things that are valid, that are reasonable, and that can really work towards the benefit of the County in general. He works on coordinating with all of the engineers and program...project managers throughout the County trying to, you know, make it so that we can...if we can combine timing on project so that we can get more efficiencies out of it. And he does evaluations for me on specific items as I request related to capital improvements and other engineering issues.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...

MR. BAZ: So, his is the overall scope.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then --

MR. BAZ: So...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --I'm guessing Ms. Wade would then be kind of a program manager, CIP oversight?

MR. BAZ: No. So, Ms. Wade is a trained planner. She, her mindset and her skills really work well in evaluating the steps to get something completed, the overall vision of a project, and how we can get a project done from a planning perspective. And then, you know, our architect was actually, his title is Capital Improvement Project Manager. He has project management skills in, you know, getting the projects to bid and then out into completion. And he works with the, a lot of other departments, both him and the existing CIP Program...Project Manager work with a lot of different departments in small projects that are needed to get things done. And so, they're, you know, working with the contractors, . . . *(inaudible)* . . . owner's representative. They're doing value engineering on a regular basis to our projects, and so that's why those skills were needed in different areas.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And that's Mr. Ige?

MR. BAZ: Excuse me? No, not Mr. Ige. We have Brian Shimomura and Baron Sumida.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, mahalo. Okay, Members, that was the two rounds of five minutes, and we don't have any priority proposals for this Department. So, if there are no objections, we will thank the Managing Director for coming.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Okay, mahalo, Managing Director, Deputy Managing Director, and Mr. Verkerke, for coming. Did you want to provide any final comments before you leave?

MR. BAZ: No, I...well, just thank you for taking on, this is an unprecedented times we're in right now and every minute we're adjusting things and you guys have seemed to adjust very well to running the Budget during these times. So, congratulations to you, Chair and all the Members, on getting advanced in technology and figuring out how to make this all happen. I was pleasantly surprised that it's working out well. Yeah, so thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Me too. Mahalo, Mr. Baz. Okay. Mahalo to the Department. Shall we take a quick recess at the call of the Chair so that we can allow the Managing Department to sanitize before the next, the Office of the Mayor comes in?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. It's 3:46 on April 9th and the Economic Development Committee will reconvene at the call of the Chair. We're now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 3:47 p.m.
RECONVENE: 3:53 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(gavel). . . Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please return to order. It's 3:53 on April 9th and we are now on the Office of the Mayor.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have with us Chief of Staff Tyson Miyake and...oh, am I muted? Oh, and Economic Development and...sorry, Economic Development...Office of the Economic Development Director Kay Fukumoto. Okay. So, really quickly before we begin, as it pertains to the FAM Program issue that we heard all about this morning for hours, we have heard talking points from both sides of this very unfortunate and clearly contentious issue. As it goes, I will say that as your Chair I have no interest in using our very limited Budget Session deliberations to try and sort out this turmoil of private interests. While I found it discouraging that such valuable community services and programs found it appropriate to air their private disagreements in such a public arena, if there is a silver lining for our work here today, it's that the information shared was quite enlightening as we learned that there is quite a demand in this growing field of work. So therefore, your Chair's recommendation is the following. I propose that HFUU's funding remain intact and that the newer entity which is Committee Vice-Chair King's priority proposal, Food Security Hawai'i receive a line item grant in their name for the requested amount placed under OED. This will allow OED to set up the proper application procedures for the new nonprofit along with guidance for their operations. If I can receive support for this recommendation, I prefer we leave it at that and we move along with our business.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, I appreciate your proposal. I, I'm very perturbed by this whole rift in our agricultural community and I think it was necessary to look at both sides, to put this on to look at both sides. But I, what I would like to do is to have both of the

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sides go to, attend mediation. And I did talk to Maui Mediation Services this morning, they would be willing to take this on in an expeditious way, because we actually have a program right now that has the majority, the overwhelming majority of apprentices who don't want to continue. So, we need some mediation immediately so that we can finish out this year with this program and that we don't lose this program, this very valuable program going forward. So, as an immediate, you know, opportunity, I think we have to try to get all, both sides to the table and discuss what's happening and try to resolve it first before we make a decision. And when I talked to Bevanne Bowers about this, I told her we would need to have some kind of a decision, at least the...both parties come out with some kind of a collaborative decision before we get to decision making in our Budget. And she agreed that that's just something that they could get to in a week. So, that would be my suggestion is let's see if we can get this issue mediated by our own services here.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, so can you tell me what the current amount is set for the Farmers Union and then how much FAM was asking for? What are the two amounts?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, I will grab that unless Committee Vice-Chair King has that right on hand.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Well, the amount of the, that was going to...in the Mayor's Budget you're talking about correct?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, the Mayor's Budget had 225,000 in there for the FAM Program under HFUU, and I think probably Ms. Fukumoto knows what the rest of the budget was for the Farmers Union. Because the 225 that was proposed to remove from Farmers Union was only earmarked to go to the Farmers Union...the FAM Program. It wasn't earmarked to go to anything else.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Call Michele.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, we can discuss more of it during decisions week, but I know that Members have asked for testifiers to serve as resources, and our process right now is that I give Members five minutes each and you can ask whoever you want with your five minutes, but that's all the time that you'll have each round is five

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minutes. So, I would like Members to be able to focus on asking the Department questions, because this is our time with the departments that I've scheduled for us. So, we have resources that are, have joined us on BlueJeans, and I don't want this discussion to take up hours as it did earlier this morning through testimony. So, if we'd like to just propose it and we not go deep into discussion right now, and if we'd like to wait until we get to decisions week to really hammer out the numbers, I think that would be your Chair's preference. But I'm open to...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I concur with you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had a clarification question. You know a lot of the testifiers mentioned that there's ongoing litigation so my question to maybe Corporation Counsel is the County, are we included or will we be or just that kind of, just clarification please?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Corporation Counsel?

MS. DESJARDINS: Hi. So, you know, in full disclosure, I'm a member of the HFUU policy committee. I have a FAM graduate in my family. So, I listened carefully to everything this morning. This is the first time I've heard of anything about litigation. So, I'd have to look at that. I can't imagine why the County would be involved in that. We're, you know, this is grant money that we give to this organization. I love the idea of mediation with Maui Mediation Services. And in full disclosure, I'm on their board too, so. I think, I really think that's probably the best thing to suggest right now, but I will definitely look and see what kind of litigation is going on this. I hope that's not the case but we'll see.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Desjardins.

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah. So, Chair, just to let you know my intention was not to ask, you know, my time, my five minutes to ask the Department. My intention...I think our intention in having these resources is when we get to the priority items if we needed some support there. But like I said, I would like to be able to refer this to Mediation Services and see if that could be worked out before we get to decision making.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't think it's really our place to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Not our kuleana.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Well --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If...

VICE-CHAIR KING: --it would help...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I mean it's great suggestion to a friend, you know, but as the Council, I have to disagree, that it's not our place to be telling organizations what to do.

VICE-CHAIR KING: No, I understand that. But my decision would be based, I mean, you know, I don't feel good about where we're putting the money right now so, you know, that's --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --just my suggestion.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's something that can be discussed offline. Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I just wanted to say that I'm going to be off for a few minutes to go over to UH. So, I will let you know when that actually does happen so that you...I don't know who's keeping records of attendance but just so that...then when I come back should you all still be here, I will check in. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. I'm taking attendance. Member Sugimura and then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. I think that these thoughts were going through all of our minds as we heard the hours of testimony this morning. It's unfortunate because I think the services, sounds like badly needed and there's some kind of contract dispute going on or communication problem. And I don't think that we should be involved in trying to resolve outside problems like that, that's not our role. I think we're here trying to figure out our budget and the continuation of the program and, you know, but I don't know how you do that if you have all of this, you know, budget...I mean disputes going on. It's really unfortunate. But thank you for bringing it up 'cause I was going to bring it up during my five minutes. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I agree with you it's not our place to get into these situations. It's disappointing and I frankly, you know, `āina first, I don't understand it. You want to farm, you want to do a farmer's mentorship program, go right ahead, you know. You got funds from places, do it. Don't...we got three-quarters of a billion dollars here and this is one tiny, tiny item. You know and with the amount of time spent this morning that we're not able to do this and the things that people

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were telling us are absolutely not within our purview. It's like I don't know that I have faith in giving \$275,000 to this program, I'm sorry. I know of a lot of farmers that want to farm and this is not the only way. And I did speak with both parties prior to it, and I had hoped that they would have resolved the situation and not aired all their dirty laundry in front of us like this. And, you know, if they can't then, they can't and they need to continue farming how they can continue farming. And it's not...we got a lot of other farmers, we got a lot of other programs, and this is not the time or place for what just happened this morning. They're asking us to do a 501(c)(3) for this thing and this and that and it's like that's not us. I don't know who you're asking, that's not us. So, sorry, sorry, I don't know how much time I was given, but that, I had to get it off my chest. Thank you for allowing that opportunity so I can ask the real questions at the real time. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay, so we've asked members of the public to join us as resource people. I would like to thank them for joining us, but I would like to allow them to leave if we can handle this at a later time.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Absolutely. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Okay, so all of those who have been asked to join us that were part of the FAM Program or HFUU, mahalo for making time to testify this morning and for, you know, volunteering to serve as a resource person for our meeting, but we will be focusing on the departments and that funding for today. So, thank you so much for joining us. You can sign off if you would like. Okay. Alice? Oh sorry. Okay. All right, so we have with us Chief of Staff Miyake and Ms. Fukumoto, and I will invite the Chief of Staff to provide opening comments if you would like.

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for having us today. The Office of the Mayor...the Mayor's Office Administration Program as you know has changed drastically in the past, in the past month, I'm sorry. Our staff is all hands on deck, we're on-call 24/7, 7 days a week. Each community liaison is juggling multiple assignments from Covid-19 relief projects. They're responding to hundreds of calls per day. The Mayor...we have a Mayor's Office Covid-19 call center. For the month of April from 7:45 to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 to 4:00, and tomorrow on Good Friday we're also open from 9:00 to 4:00. We receive over 100 calls per day along with hundreds of e-mail inquiries. We have been doing our very best to respond to all the inquiries and suggestions. We get suggestions for programs and relief. We are constantly learning and upgrading the way we connect and respond to the public. But none of this would all be possible without the hardworking and dedicated Mayor's Office staff. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Miyake. Okay, Members, I got five minutes on the clock starting with Committee Vice-Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, let's go fast. My first question is if you can explain the new Climate Change Resiliency and Sustainability Program, and I don't need every detail

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but do you have something that you'll be submitting to tell us exactly what the goals are, what the positions will do, and who is going to oversee this program?
Mr. Miyake?

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Member King. The two positions we have are currently in OED and they're going to be transferred to the Office of the Mayor. We also are requesting...propose two expansion positions. The program would coordinate climate action [*sic*], resiliency, and sustainability efforts for the different departments. The, for the grant portion, they're going to be managed through the Office of the Mayor. OED...Kay, can you talk about the grant portion for this portion?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair?

MR. MIYAKE: Yes.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair? Councilmember King, on Page 362 to 364 in your Program Budget book describes the new Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency Program description as well as services and other items that they will have.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Yeah, I see, so I see, you know, some expected outcomes, I just wasn't sure about the application and how you're planning to apply this money. So, you know, I see goals and objectives, but do you have...is this something that's in the works, that you're still trying to build this program?

MR. MIYAKE: Yes, that is correct.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. And is there an attempt to issue grants to other entities, nonprofits or otherwise through this office?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember King, so a lot of the funding for this portion of the Mayor's Office has been moved from the Office of Economic Development to the Administration Office. We also have a \$2 million appropriation under the Countywide costs for climate change and that as this program develops and funding is needed, the funding will come from that pot of money.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, is that something that you foresee being, possibly being able to make cuts to that program since you don't have a hard and fast list of what that money is going to in case we need to make cuts, you know, across the board, we need to make budget reductions?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Yeah, well, we put that money aside in the development of this program and also for in Fiscal Year 2020, there was a lot of projects or studies that were funded relating to climate change and sea level rise, and until we get those responses back which we expect to have it shortly, we didn't want to put a specific dollar amount to each project or each report. So, we put a pot of money there so that we have the flexibility to use that money to address the issues that come as a result of the reports.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you for that explanation, Budget Director. And if I can get the second question in, just wondered how...if you can explain how the increased funds for agriculture promotion will be used in alignment to the strategic plan. Do you have any particular programs you're going to fund or is this just again just putting more money into the Grant Program?

MS. FUKUMOTO: It is putting more money into the Grant Program but it is in alignment with Mayor's strategic plan which is to focus on, you know, sustainable agriculture, moving into helping the farmers become more sustainable. You know, obviously after Covid-19 and all our issues with the farming community, we know that we need to implement some new ideas. And we're hoping that with the additional funding we can fund projects that would move us towards that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Will this money go directly to farmers, is it going to be available directly to farmers, or does it have to go like a middle agency, kind of a middleman that people were talking about wanting to bypass?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Yeah. We...it's been a...it's been challenging in that this year we did have grants that we worked directly with some farmers. And the difficulty is that they are not paper people administratively. So, you know, we've had to do a lot of guidance and in, you know, helping them with just basic like budgets, you know, and spreadsheets and such. So, you know, a farmer can apply or a fiscal agent could apply as well for the farmer. But I mean you can certainly put a, you know, like maximum 10 percent fiscal fee on that if that's going to be happening, because some farmers do need help administratively.

VICE-CHAIR KING: All right, thank you. I think my time is up.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. And we'll go to Pro Temp Kama and then Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I have no questions at this time. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I wondered also about the, I guess the impacts of the Covid-19 and if there could be like a...I know that the Mayor set up a small business macro enterprise kind of fund with I think the Chamber of Commerce. So, is Administration planning on doing something similar for the ag community? I think we heard it...I thought about it when Hōkūao testified this morning about giving preference to ag and I just wondered if we're doing something now as well as would you like to have something set up for the future?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Thank you, Councilwoman Yuki Lei Sugimura. The, we did the 1 million with the Maui Chamber of Commerce microenterprise loan. That was not for farmers because we had actually launched the farm produce buyback program, you know, with the Farm Bureau as well as HFUU. We can certainly look at, you know, another

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stimulus package or something specific to farmers. You know we're trying to figure out with the monies that we have launched with the two organizations, you know, if they have any other ideas in terms of helping the farmers. We'd certainly take a look at that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. I think it's a really good idea. And I know that we're doing that buyback because we don't want the farmers to have to plow under their fields and I think that's important. And your invasive species, I always wondered because I see MISC in Water, I see MISC in your pot, I mean in your Department so I wonder if the Administration could give us a list of all the invasive species, axis deer, and, you know, all of those types of problems I guess that we have within the community and give us a list of where the pots of money are Countywide so it's not only in OED that I'm kind of interested in. And related to that, I know that during the last term we had like an audit just to look at MISC and its use of the grant funding and I wonder if that's been resolved and the money is flowing 'cause I think at that point they hadn't been able to draw down some grants just because of...

MS. FUKUMOTO: The audit was primarily, you know, looking at how would we determine their performance measure, and, you know, one of the projections was getting that...using equipment that could record decibel levels of sound. So, I believe they went ahead and purchased that. They were in the process of installing and...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Excuse me, Kay. So, have they been...sorry, so they have been able to drawn down their grants and to move the grants forward? Because I think that their process is really slow which made me wonder if, you know, do we need to give them all that money because they aren't able to use the money that we gave them previously. So I would just, you know, the effectiveness of...

MS. FUKUMOTO: Well, I know...yeah. This grant period we gave them less, it was 500,000 for coqui for instance, because there was still funds from Fiscal Year 2020. So, you know, the actual invasive species funds and environmental funds as well as the energy funds are moving over to the Mayor's Office so they're not going to be in OED anymore. So, I'm sorry, we should have had Makale'a here to answer some of the questions.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. I guess I'm going to run out of time but I wonder if we could get Administration like a comprehensive look at where all of these pots of money are in Water and now I guess in the Mayor's Office. But it was in OED and there's, you know, there's some track record through all the different departments Countywide. So, and it's so important and it's easy to lose track of, you know, of who's doing what because it's scattered, right, throughout the County, but plain...doing some important work so I don't want to lose sight of it. So, that's it. thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

MR. MIYAKE: Budget Director has a response to Member Sugimura.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. Ms. Yoshimura?

MS. YOSHIMURA: I can put it in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh okay.

MR. MIYAKE: She'll put her response in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I should have asked you from the beginning.
Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Not all of our resources went home right?
Do we still have Keali'i Reichel and Autumn Ness?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll pause your time while we check.

MS. MILNER: Sorry, Autumn is still on the line and we can get Keali'i back ASAP.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, we'll take up Ms. Ness first. Ms. Ness, will you
please unmute yourself?

MS. NESS: Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. NESS: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right, I'm resuming your time, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Ness. I was, wanting to ask for more details of
the food distribution project and where the micro grant idea came from. And for
Keali'i Reichel, if farming was a part of the building.

MS. NESS: Yeah, I'd love to tell you guys about where this idea came from. So, when the
whole Covid thing started happening, a lot of, not just me, a lot of people in the
community started to see where this is going. A, that our farmers are going to suffer
short term, and B, that this is a real opportunity to build systems that last...that are
going to save our farmers in the short term but also last to help them in the long term,
right? So, there is a group of people that is actively...we meet every other day and we
are in the throes of putting together a short, mid, and long-term food distribution
collection, aggregation, and distribution system that focuses on...it's the food hub but
we've just fast tracked everything in the food hub. And it's myself, Common Ground

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Collective, the Farmers Union, a bunch of farmers from the Upcountry Farmers Market. We are trying to put this...well, not we're trying, we're doing it. We're putting a system together where, you know, farmers responded with, to this Covid thing by putting together CSA boxes but that's an incredible amount of non-farming work. Farmers are now having to do their direct marketing, their packaging, their delivery, their Instagram, their invoicing, all that stuff. So, we want to take that all from farmers so they can go back to doing mostly farming. And then there is some farmers like people that only grow lettuce and they only supply to hotel so they can't do their own CSA box. So, we're aggregating all of that at a central point. We have an Internet platform up, it's like a virtual farmers market that people can either buy a CSA box that's random every week or they can do their own ala carte. The food gets aggregated at this hub and then it goes out to regional distribution points, and in the short term, those boxes and those orders can be picked up without entering a building. So, in a parking lot there's no-contact parking or no-contact pickup. But in the long term we are looking at setting up more permanent regional pickup points so you can either go there one day a week and pick up your order, or it can be delivered to your house for a nominal fee. And as we're doing this, we don't want to set this up and then as soon as the hotels come back online, selling all of your produce to one hotel or restaurant is way easier, right, so we don't want them to ditch this whole system and go back to supplying the hotels and restaurants. So, we're creating a system that's so easy that A, our local consumers just, it's just the way you shop now. This is how you get food, they're just getting so used to it. And B, will free up the farmer enough, 'cause they're not worrying about distribution and packaging and single orders and stuff, that they have the brain space to start scaling up their production so when the hotels and restaurants do come back online, they can supply both. And we ask them...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. NESS: What's that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it, thank you.

MS. NESS: Yeah. Okay, cool.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ness. Okay, Keali'i Reichel? Keali'i Reichel?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can wait for...

MS. NESS: Can I have one last sentence? I'm so sorry, about the micro grants. I'm sorry, and then I'm done. The micro grant idea came from, we asked these farmers if we took all of your non-farming responsibility away from you, could you with the existing infrastructure on your farm, scale up production, and most of them said yes, a little. But a lot of them said yes, if I had a little bit of money...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Ness, I'm happy to let you finish on my time. Member Paltin has one minute left.

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MS. NESS: I'm sorry. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Mr. Reichel, I was wondering if farming is a part of the cultural resource center project or is, or would any of the money be going to that?

MR. REICHEL: The building itself is broken down into three segments. One segment is the agricultural processing area. The second part of that is a commercial kitchen to help with that processing. And that processing can be anything from packaging to preparing, you know, all that kind of stuff. The dance parts are upstairs, the dance floors are upstairs and it's totally separate from the agricultural processing area.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But that's included in what the building is?

MR. REICHEL: Yes, yes. We wanted to make it all-inclusive because we didn't want to separate out all of those things, because the, it was just easier for us and all of our students who are dancers are also part of the agricultural program as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you so much. My last question is for Ms. Fukumoto. Do you think it is appropriate to separate grant managers out of the Office of Economic Development and put them into the Office of the Mayor?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Well, I believe the structure right now is that I would still have a grant manager and then the Office of the Mayor would have a separate person.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, just wondering why we're bifurcating.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Well, I believe it's because the environmental grants are going to be moving over as well as the energy grants and climate action related things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, all. I'll wait for my next round.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Just two questions for this round. The first one is have you folks a recommendation on adjusting MVB's budget since I don't expect visitors for quite a while? And I prefer not to promote the County too much at a point in time where we're not sure of the length of our crisis. So, are you folks...do you folks have any comments for adjustments or you're going to stand by your proposed number? Page 390 on the request, Chair, 3.5 million.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fukumoto?

MS. FUKUMOTO: I'm sorry, is it the 3.5 million request for MVB or just my budget in general?

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COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: MVB.

MS. FUKUMOTO: MVB. MVB is very critical in terms of trying to get all our tourism workers back, and I really feel that this will be the way that we try to restart the tourism industry. You know, one of the things is we have to create the demand in order for the airplanes to actually come back. You know, not every airplane or airline is going to be coming back. They have to see the demand in order for them to come back. So, you know, based on last, the last unemployment numbers, we have almost 24,000 Maui unemployment claims. And so, my feeling is we need to kick start the tourism industry. It's never going to get back to where it was pre-pandemic. You know, there's all the other tourist industries that are going to be competing with us as well. And I feel that...

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: So, you're projecting a short-term crisis and you expect business back to usual at the end of the year? That's your guys' presumptions?

MS. FUKUMOTO: After 9/11 it took nine years for the economy to get back to where it was pre-9/11. Unfortunately, I feel like this particular pandemic has much more longer lasting effects. I, at this point I can't predict, I don't even know when we can get out of the pandemic. So, you know, my feeling is we...as soon as we can get out of the pandemic, we need the marketing program, MVB knows exactly which markets to go after to get the tourists back. I know there's always a concern about over tourism and I really feel that that's not going to be a problem for us because we're going to be begging for tourists to come back. I'm trying to get 25,000 people off of unemployment.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I understand, but we don't want nobody here until it's safe to be here.

MS. FUKUMOTO: And to be frank, nobody will come here until it's safe, so yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. And so, my next question would be on Page 368, I really don't like this 1.5 million for axis deer mitigation. I think it's too narrow, I think it's very small in its scope. It doesn't address to me what is the County's problem which is feral animals in a broader sense for the various regions of this County. So, while I'm open to the 1.5 that the Mayor has proposed, I am looking at expanding it to feral animal, and I consider this a community issue and therefore I will be proposing to transfer the funds out of the Mayor's Office. Any comments?

MS. FUKUMOTO: May I ask where would you consider putting the funding?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I'm going to put it in Human Concerns where it belongs.

MS. FUKUMOTO: The only...

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COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I want . . .*(inaudible)*. . . approaches to this Countywide issue because every region has their own unique characters that I need to have them be able to exercise some personal kuleana within their area of residence to fit their needs, not somebody else's idea of what fits for Molokai who's not Molokai, okay, or Lāna`i. So, I want West Maui people to think about West Maui issues for their watershed, I need East Maui people to think about their issues, I need Lanaians for Lāna`i and Molokaianans for Molokai. And so, I consider this something that needs to be changed. I need more input from those that have experience, that ma`a with their own `āina in their level of feral management issues. And I'm willing to allow each region the opportunity to exercise personal kuleana on this subject. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Kay, I know you proposed your budget early in the year so with all that, all the changes that we're all undergoing, do you see something that you would revise? Just, you know, any areas of grants that you would revise?

MS. FUKUMOTO: To be honest, I wouldn't lower my budget and I know it's hard to ask for more at this point. But obviously economic development and diversification is what's going to be needed in the next year or two and ongoing. So, I'll reserve asking for more but as a consideration if I'm being asked what I would like to do in my budget.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because your grants...so your office and Housing and Human Concerns are going to be hit hard. You know, economic development, employment, unemployment, social services, those are the areas of extreme need. So, you mentioned over 24,000 claims, unemployment claims recently. What does that bring our unemployment rate up to, do you know? What percent?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't get a percent. It was broken down in weeks so, you know, obviously March 21st it was 2,200, March 28th it was 10,849, and April 4th it was 10,274 that filed claims, so 23,000. I mean I think what was, what used to be filed prior to this was probably in the hundreds, like 500 if we looked at the year before. So, we're looking at 1,000, 1,000 percent increase.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, thank you and good luck.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon, Ms. Fukumoto. If you could just give comment on Budget Details 11-59, increase in air travel and also increase for sister city. I guess being that we're not going to be seeing any need for travel at any time soon, just wanted to get your thoughts on the

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increase. And I know of course this was done before Covid-19. Can we get an explanation for that?

MS. FUKUMOTO: I'm sorry, I don't see 11-59. Airfare?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Budget Details, yeah. You're asking for an increase.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Sorry. Councilmember Molina, that is coming from a grant fund. So, we can always reduce that, but it's grant funding so it's not any of the general funds that we're talking about.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Great, thank you. And then the reason for the sister city? 'Cause again, you know, I don't think we'll have any folks coming here any time soon. I know it's a small bump but just your thoughts on that.

MS. FUKUMOTO: That increase was actually for an event that was going to be held in O`ahu. There was going to be a Filipino event that brought all the different sister cities from the Philippines. You know, obviously this was...we're still wondering whether that event is going to happen or not, so again, you know. But I agree with you, given that there's the pandemic, there won't be much traveling.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Okay, thank you. And one question for Mr. Miyake, regarding the expansion for the charging station, 300,000, and the resiliency hub. What is the...where is the location for this?

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Member Molina. I will have Alex, Alex de Roode is working on the RFP for that. I can get you the...I can get it, a response from him in writing and provide it to you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Okay. And then the cost for the electricity, I guess once we get this charging station established, the County I guess will absorb the cost? 'Cause I know the charging stations in front of the County Building, I believe Hitachi, yeah, pays for the electrical bill on that. Maybe I'm wrong but I'll go ahead and wait for the details on that then.

MS. FUKUMOTO: I can speak to the RFP. He's actually, he has the current RFP right now and so there's different ways that the vendors could have applied and, you know, responded, right. They could have either taken care of the billing and taken care of electricity and we get a difference or, you know, there was another method of payment. So, the RFPs are still in the process of being looked at right now.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Ms. Fukumoto, for being here. So, I'm looking on Page 390 of the Budget and so I know we had proviso'd

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200,000 for Hana Highway's visitor education, and we know that we had some problems with some of the nonprofits taking up that. So, it looks like it's now just a general item under visitor education. Clarify?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, not necessarily for Hana Highway?

MS. FUKUMOTO: That's correct. We had, you know, we never could issue the grants, whether it was either a fiscal agent or...so that could...we were having issues and that never ever came back. So, the funding for Hana Highway didn't occur; although, you know, through the strategic committee, they were working closely with the State Highways, you know, and obviously you know that they have those signs now up, you know. So, and looking at ways to mitigate some of that traffic issues on some of the areas that were too popular.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you. And thank you with your help with that. So, it looks like, you know, if anybody wanted for apply for it, they still could, it's just visitor education throughout the County?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you.

MS. FUKUMOTO: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then, you know, as you know for our Hana, the East Maui District funds and the other district funds, 140,000. It looks like we still have those funds. But so just considering the Covid pandemic and a lot of my provisos was for like the Taro Festival, those festivals. So, if those are not happening, what happens to those funds or if those nonprofits can still apply for those funds?

MS. FUKUMOTO: The current funding for Fiscal Year '20 would actually expire. You know, so if they could not...you know, if they do expend it and we know that they'll do it within a year, we can extend the grant. But, you know, some festivals obviously they decided just to cancel, right? So, for those events that cancelled, we are closing out their grants, you know, paying whatever expenses and literally closing them out.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh okay. That was one of the questions from applicants if, whether if they cancelled or the Mayor cancelled and what they would have to pay back. But the County will pay back whatever they utilized, yeah?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Right. Whatever events still had expenses, we're trying to help them and close out the events. We wouldn't just cancel it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great. Thank you. And then it looks like for the MISC, so all of the MISC items were zeroed out on Page 394 and then moved to...well, and

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then I guess now the Mayor's Office has taken up the MISC so again there's going to be another...how is the Mayor's Office going to handle grant process for MISC?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember Sinenci, the process isn't going to change. It's just moving the administrator from one office to another office. It's a process that we use and the grant process will still remain the same.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you, Ms. Yoshimura. And so, you've moved the monies now, under 1.9 million for environmental protections, and so Mr. Radford testified this morning about putting in some funding for little red fire ants, additional funds for coqui and Miconia, and also the Maui Nui Marine Network was also zeroed out. So, can these, can the 1.9 million for environmental protections go towards these items that were zeroed out? I would...I was going to propose...

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember Sinenci...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Go ahead, Director.

MS. YOSHIMURA: One point nine million dollars was, is being requested for environmental protection. We'll put out an RFP and whoever applies for the grant money will be...the grant applications will be reviewed and funding will be appropriated accordingly. Last year, the Council did put in a number of provisos for like little fire ants and other invasive species categories like Miconia. With coqui frogs this year, in Fiscal Year 2020, they did get an appropriation of \$2.5 million. They haven't been able to spend that down. We did just recently extend their grant till December 31, 2020, and that's why we didn't give them a large amount because they were still using their Fiscal Year 2020 monies for half of Fiscal Year 2021. So, the request I think for coqui frog this year is \$500,000 which we thought was appropriate to take them from January 1st of 2021 through June 30, 2021. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director, for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci, we do have Mr. Radford that you requested to serve as a resource. Did you want to wait until round two to ask him questions, or do you want to ask him a quick question so that we can let him go about his day?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, we can ask the question of Mr. Radford. Thank you, Chair. Now okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mr. Radford, did you hear the Budget Director's, the extension of the MISC grant?

MR. RADFORD: Yes, I did hear that, and it's a good point. And that's why when earlier when I testified, I said that we, if we were able to receive a million cumulative which there's 500,000 in the budget now for coqui, that would get us through. And it's a

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valid point and I think, you know, despite the best intentions of all parties, we didn't receive the funding or weren't able to spend it until October of last year. And so, we are definitely behind the curve and even more so now with slowing things down with Covid-19 so we understand that. But we hope that the Council will be supportive of, you know, ongoing dollar amounts that I described earlier. So, what I think Member Sinenci is proposing and what we've discussed anyway is, would be a million cumulative for coqui frog, that would keep us going, keep our community engagement program going which I mentioned this morning. But also what I didn't mention was that we're actually still getting things out to people in basically like lockboxes where they can go get sprayers and supplies that they need. And so, we're coming up with creative solutions to keep 'em on the ground, so that would be that for coqui. For little fire ant, it'd be 700,000 and that would be proviso'd out of what Member Sinenci described in that 1.9 million general fund or just, I don't know how that works. But anyway, 700,000 to keep that helicopter work in Nahiku going and other efforts. And then it would be 500,000 for Miconia to get the crew ramped back up to where we just recently had 'em which was 12 people on the ground and as well as helicopter work. So, I hope that helps answer the question. I'm happy to entertain any others. And also I will be providing a written summary of what I just described with some more detail to all Members. Thank you for --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Radford.

MR. RADFORD: --the opportunity, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Members, are there any other questions for Mr. Radford? Okay, mahalo for serving as a resource, Mr. Radford. Thank you.

MR. RADFORD: Thank you as always.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, and then to be fair to all the Members, I timed that exchange and that was two minutes so I'll take away two minutes from Member Sinenci's second five minutes. Okay? All right. Okay. Okay, my turn. Okay, let's see. Kumu Keali'i Reichel...there you are. Okay.

MR. REICHEL: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Mahalo for returning to serve as a resource for the Committee. I --

MR. REICHEL: My pleasure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --support the funding in the Budget for this project, a cultural resource center. I would love to see a cultural resource center in all the districts. So, for this funding it's \$250,000, and I saw your testimony that you also

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applied for \$700,000 for a GIA from the State, and the Legislature is now on an indefinite recess right now so we're hoping that they'll be able to finish the business of the State and provide funding to those that they'll grant GIAs to. Grant-in-aids. And so, just wondering if Ke`alaokamaile is preparing for moving forward with \$250,000 if that 700,000 doesn't, for whatever reason doesn't end up coming through?

MR. REICHEL: That's a really good question. We would have to take a look at our finances. Right now, we think we could probably do it. We have about 500,000 left in the bank. We raised on our own 900,000 for this project. And so, that \$750,000 from the State would have been a really good pot, you know, coupled with the 250,000 from, hopefully from the County. But, you know, if we don't get that 750, we, you know, we make do with what we have and so if we have to shrink the building a little bit or if we have to adjust if we had to then so be it. But, you know, we've been working at this for quite a while now and so, you know, we cannot help what happened in the world, we cannot help what happened to our State. And so, at the same time, we still have to holomua as best as we can. So, I'm not sure if I answered that question --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You did, mahalo. Mahalo.

MR. REICHEL: --but yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I support the project, mahalo.

MR. REICHEL: I think we can.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hiki, hiki, we find a way.

MR. REICHEL: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, did anyone else have a question for Kumu Keali`i Reichel? Okay. Okay. Oh, Member Sugimura, did you have a question? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I just want to thank him for sitting in with us, listening to all of our other deliberations. But thank you very much for putting this together. Through the years we did hear from other halaus thinking why doesn't Maui have this. So, thank you for taking this on. I know it's way beyond your normal work for the community and any way we can be of help I'm glad. So, thank you very much.

MR. REICHEL: Mahalo. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. So, that was 30 seconds so I'll take that off of your five minutes when it's your turn. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Boy, you're doing some strict accounting with the time, yeah. I love it, it's good. Yeah, just one more quick question I guess for Director Yoshimura, if she could help me explain the term night differential. That was under Budget Details 11-12.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --it's for Kumu Keali'i Reichel.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I was getting ahead. No, yeah, my question to him is when is the next release, musical release?

MR. REICHEL: Oh my gosh. You know, that I'm semi-retired but never say never. Gotta focus in on this building and focus in on the community.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, you gotta keep doing it, man. We need you. Mahalo, Keali'i. Good to see you.

MR. REICHEL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay, so I'll thank Kumu Keali'i Reichel for joining us and for serving as a resource for us and I'll let him go. He la maika'i. Mahalo. Okay, and then I will call Ms. Ness. Okay, let's see. Can you unmute yourself please?

MS. NESS: Oh, did you want me to finish talking about the micro grants, why we...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, you'll have two minutes.

MS. NESS: Okay, I can do this. So, we came up with this idea and I've been thinking about it for a while but this project just solidified it. We asked farmers if we took away all of your non-farming work, all your packaging, all your delivery, all your sales, all that stuff, could you scale up your production. And a lot of them said yeah, a little bit, like it's a big part of my job so if you let me stay on the farm I can grow more food. And a lot of them said if I had a little bit of money to buy things like irrigation and pay for what we think are really basic needs, I could scale my farm up even more. So, that would allow them to serve both the needs of our local consumers and then also the hotels when they come back online. The thing is it's not like a program, all they need sometimes is like a 7...\$4,000 tractor. So, we were looking for a mechanism that doesn't go through a third party, not through HFUU, not through the Bureau that takes a percentage off. Hey, they go to MEO or OED or somebody and say I need a \$4,000 tractor, OED says great, here is the money, go get your tractor, bring back the receipt, pau. And the farmer can go back to farming and this is how micro grants work. The farmer knows best his farm needs. So, just last thing to be very clear, this is going to increase food production and this is not a loan, just like MVB, it's a cash disbursement, it's a cash injection into an industry that we believe in. And that's going to create jobs, because the delivery systems and the aggregation and the sales that come on the backend of supporting those farmers are going to create jobs. Then the farmer doesn't have to worry about paying back the loan or saving up money to

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buy these, whatever he needs. So, that means the cost of the food that's going to go into the local market will also come down. Tractors, packaging material, refrigerators, a washing facility, that kind of stuff.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ness.

MS. NESS: Yeah, thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Did anyone else have any questions for Ms. Ness so that we can let her go? Okay, Member Sinenci, I'm going to time you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I think, I believe I have two and a half more minutes. But I would like to ask Ms. Ness if you had any additional literature about the grants, the mini grants, if you could send some of that to us.

MS. NESS: I sent an e-mail to each of your guys' individual account that outlines like an idea of what the grant proviso language would look like. Like, kind of like the Affordable Housing Fund, what this grant language can be used for, and it defines things like infrastructure, packaging, label design, stuff like that. If you want anything more than that, I'm happy to follow up but that's kind of --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. NESS: --my on-the-fly proposed language.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

MS. NESS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, you have half the time. Okay, so I'm going to release Ms. Ness and thank her for joining us and serving as a resource.

MS. NESS: Thank you, guys.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ness. Okay. Okay, right on. Okay, and then I have 35 seconds left and with my 35 seconds I would like to ask Ms. Fukumoto what the ag promotion, there's an increase of \$100,000, what was the intention of that, to have more workshops?

MS. FUKUMOTO: The Ag Promotion Fund is like any other grant fund, you know, it's a pot of money that farmers or anybody that has a farming project could apply to get a grant for. So, you know, in the past, it was only 50,000 and so if we're trying to encourage agriculture and doing, you know, and supporting various projects, that would be the reason, you know. By increasing that fund I could fund more projects in ag.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Like Ms. Ness' idea?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Ms. Fukumoto. Okay. Pro Temp Kama has left us for the time so I'm going to go to Member Sugimura. Member Sugimura, you have four-and-a-half minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: We're keeping to our word. Thank goodness, yeah, Chair. Anyway, I'm glad hearing all of this and thank you for bringing MISC back to answer some of those questions. And with just the Covid-19 and the impact of our community in general and knowing that we want to plan for the future, if OED could get back to us to look at all the different...your festivals and different projects that go on through your office as well as the transfer of all the other divisions I guess that got transferred to the Mayor's Office outside of OED. If you could look at that and let us know the impact for your discussions or what you're talking to all these different organizations, what's going to happen to their funding. Because you're in touch with them and not us and we can only guess from a distance, and I would love to hear so we can make some rational, you know, decisions with you to move forward. That's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have three-and-a-half minutes left, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'll share it with somebody.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Committee Vice-Chair King, I'm sorry, I skipped you, I went straight to Pro Temp Kama. You're ready?

VICE-CHAIR KING: No problem, no problem. Thank you. Yeah, I'm ready. Actually, I was going to ask Autumn but I'll ask Kay. If we were going to do these micro loans, would you want us to put additional money into that Ag Promotion Fund or could you do it within the 100,000? You know, say we need...

MS. FUKUMOTO: Yeah, I did not see Autumn's, you know, summary, so I don't even know how much she was asking for, but.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. FUKUMOTO: My original budget was 50, I added 100, I'm not sure what her ask was.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I was trying to ask her before she left but I couldn't get to my mute button fast enough. I'll try to...we'll try to follow up with her on that. And then just to follow up on the EV charging station, you have 300,000 in for that and you said you were going to issue an RFP. Is the intent to bring in revenue for the County from that? So, would the County own the charging stations or would the...whoever puts them in would they own it and give us the revenue? So, you know, is there a plan to recapture that revenue, a revenue source? Do you know?

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MS. FUKUMOTO: There's an existing RFP right now so I know there were different possibilities that the consultant, you know, would offer. And so, they're in the process, Alex de Roode is in the process of reviewing those. I know there were options of possibly the vendor owning the stations versus we owning the stations so there were a couple ways that it could . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. FUKUMOTO: But we also needed...

VICE-CHAIR KING: No, I understand that, but I just wonder if we're going to invest 300,000, are we expecting something in return, or if it's a private company, maybe they invest the money and then they get all the revenue from it. So, anyway, that was just one of my concerns about that. And then if we could go and talk about the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, they have three line items in the Budget, and one of them is 600,000 which I think is the second half of their air conditioning project. But could you just tell us what all these three, the Maui Arts and Cultural Center line items are, those...I think altogether about a million dollars? That's Page 11-39.

MS. FUKUMOTO: The 600,000 is the second request, the second-year request and the request is, it was for a two-year CIP request for maintenance and storage building, additional dance studio classrooms, completing the community events lawn infrastructure, and completing the community stage and stage cover and other support spaces.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, so that would go away...that would be done after this year then?

MS. FUKUMOTO: The hope is that we could get...they could just deploy the funding. Right. And this would be the second request.

VICE-CHAIR KING: And then the other two pots, the 318,000 and 150,000 new, it looks like 150,000 new money, new program, what is that...what is the 150...I think the 318 is for programming, I know that's...there's some education, there's some youth programs in there. But what's the new 150,000?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Oh, are we, are you looking at the culture and arts program down below?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, yeah. Is that at the MACC or is that a different program?

MS. FUKUMOTO: No, that's just a basic fund. You know similar to your all separate \$140,000 pots, that pot was put in there, because there have been certain programs that in the past were running in different districts, you know, instead of running it through the different districts, like as an example, there was a dance program that ran through like eight or nine districts and I had to allocate it over all the districts, that this pot of money would be what I would use for things like that.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Okay. Yeah, 'cause I think there were different amounts coming out of different budgets. And then the last one in my time I think I have left is the internship program and can you just like briefly talk about what that internship program is? It's Page 11-37 of the Budget Details.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Yeah. That was a program that was done back in 1991. Apparently, it had been done for several years and we stopped doing it. And so, it's having UH Maui College students be interned in the County of Maui in different departments so that the departments could actually, you know, start working with them. These are children who have interest in those specific, you know, work-related interests.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. FUKUMOTO: And the thought is that because they're working in the County that perhaps they could back to work in the County after they graduate.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. And so, not necessarily just children but just...but UH Maui students?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Correct, it's the college students.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Let's see, we went to Member Sugimura, so Member Paltin. And before I start your time, Member Paltin, I just want to remind Members that you did ask for resource people to sign back on so if there are any resource people that you asked for that you see in the list, please direct message them and let them know that they're released to go if you don't plan on asking them any questions, okay? Let's just be mindful of everyone's time. Okay, Member Paltin, here we go. Ready? Okay, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to forgo my written questions 'cause I fully expect to get the answers in writing, and particularly the Committee of, Status on Women when I was kind of confused on that. But for the Maui Visitors Bureau expense, I'm getting e-mails from my constituents on the West Side that people are still advertising on their own, they got folks from New York flying in at discounted rates, and, you know, I really connected with the things that Ms. Nishiki was saying and Ms. Ness was saying. This is our opportunity to diversify our economy. To continually put money into tourism, I mean we had so many testifiers that work in the tourism industry that are telling us this, so I don't...there's no way I can justify putting in like \$3.7 million into tourism with the visitor education added on to the 3.5 mil. I thought that was excessive when we had like choke tourists and now we can't get them to stop coming. Nobody's checking the private jets. How are we going to be a safe place for tourists? And I'd like to hear from Ms. Toni Davis, I thought she had really good ideas but I'm not sure if she's like in charge of things, and also from Ms. Fukumoto and the budget team, you know, about these...all these events that we're going to have and we're not even sure when people should gather, so.

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MS. DAVIS: Aloha, Member Paltin. Thank you for the question. You can hear me right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can.

MS. DAVIS: Yes, okay. Per my testimony, there is a University of Hawai'i economic research organization that put out a paper on April 4th and they talk about how we would restart our economy. I do not speak for the hotels and I have a concern about low pricing and the influx of people. I mean what I presented to you during my testimony was from that research paper of what they predict, 12 to 18 months and a big part of that, that's their pessimistic side. Their optimistic side was sometime this summer, and I'm sorry my dog's whining, I usually take him for a walk right now. But the --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Our apologies...

MS. DAVIS: --the optimistic side would require that we have...Abbott's lab just came out with a new test, they're getting it in production. It's 5 to 15 minutes. What we need to do to protect Hawai'i, our people need to know that they're safe, right? There's a lot of blame that got put on visitors for this virus here in Hawai'i. But...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can we recommend instead of giving that money directly to the Visitors Bureau that we get...use that money for that rapid testing of everyone that comes in?

MS. DAVIS: I think...well, we need to do this on a national level because we need to test them before they leave. I don't think...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't have control...

MS. DAVIS: I mean don't you think this is something we all have to do? And I mean I don't think...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . . *(inaudible)* . . . basing on we have control over right now.

MS. DAVIS: Right, right. I don't know that Hawai'i has to take on that expense 'cause it needs to be --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. DAVIS: --for cruise ships too, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. If I can hear from Ms. Fukumoto because I only have limited time but I like your stuff.

MS. DAVIS: Okay, I'm sorry. I didn't know I used your time. Okay, sorry.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ms. Fukumoto, any comments on possibly using the money for rapid testing on all the people that come into Maui County?

MS. FUKUMOTO: I guess my question would be who would we be assigning that responsibility to? And, you know, that's now working with the State I believe because the airports are State restricted use. So, and we'd have to look into that. I'm not sure if...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...

MS. FUKUMOTO: Are we suggesting that only Maui County would do that? I guess.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, so...

MS. FUKUMOTO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do we feel safe importing tourists when we don't know if they're infected or not?

MS. FUKUMOTO: I don't know how to answer that. I mean I know there's a whole paradigm shift and we all got changed after the pandemic. I would hope that we would go back to some sort of normalcy and not feel that we...every single person that was coming into the island was infected.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Fukumoto, were you finished with that thought? You can finish. I know the timer went off but you can finish your thought.

MS. FUKUMOTO: I think I don't know what my thoughts are actually about the subject.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh okay.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Okay, did anyone have questions for Ms. Davis? If not, I'd like to release her from serving as a resource person. Anyone had questions for Ms. Davis? Okay, mahalo, Ms. Davis, for serving as a resource person for us.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you so much. Thank you for everything you guys do. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aloha.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Hokama, you ready?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Hi. Thank you, Chair. Do I have a time limit, extra short time left or I'm okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have your full five minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Wow, thank you, Chair. So, maybe my first question and again I appreciate the representatives from Mayor's Office but more for Mr. Miyake maybe this question. You know we've been spending a lot of time and discussion about County funds to assist areas like our farmers, agricultural areas, health programs, temporary housing assistance. One thing I was...brought to my attention from Lānaʻi is there seems to be some confusion on who is doing what. So, I'm going to ask, is there a way we can help differentiate so there's lack of confusion of which pot of money we really want to go after to support community needs? You know we got 2.3 trillion from the Federal government that's going to be shared with the states and the counties. So, how much of that is Maui County anticipating to assist us in this areas I just mentioned so that we can put our County General Fund to more areas that needs to be addressed that doesn't have the Federal support from current legislation?

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Member Hokama, for the question. In fact, I believe at five o'clock, our Finance Director Scott Teruya is on a conference call with the State to talk about that money. So, I believe out of that 2.3 billion, the counties were going to get 900 million was my understanding. So, I can have Scott get us the actual numbers after his conference call. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, we would appreciate that. And we know the Congress is currently arguing on the next financial support which is geared more for state and county governments and our efforts that we're providing during this crisis. But what would really help us is where we can now look to use County General Fund to areas that need to be shored up and provided that extra resource, because I don't want to compete against the Federal dollars, I want to complement and coordinate but not compete. And so, that would help us to direct our small businesses in our districts and relieve some of the confusion that I've been getting in questions on whose pot of money and whose form do I fill out. And again, I have people who want to utilize benefits but are very confused on how to go about it, Mr. Miyake and Ms. Fukumoto. So, we would ask for your assistance in clarification and directing us to the right source of money.

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. That's all I have. I appreciate my time. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. Okay, Chair Lee, you're ready?

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Ready.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Yeah, thank you. Similarly, I was going to ask a question about is there a website or a place where...for Ms. Fukumoto, to go to see the list of assistance programs for both Federal and State? You know there was a \$2 trillion release of funds earlier and now about another \$800 billion so we need to find out where these programs are and how we can get more information. That's one. The other thing is the Governor today announced a recovery and resiliency taskforce made up of the Senate President, the House Speaker, business people, people from every sector to be led by businessman Alan Oshima who is the former president of HECO. So, Mr. Miyake, is the Mayor thinking of doing a, establishing a similar type of taskforce or group for Maui County?

MR. MIYAKE: Yes. We currently have a Covid taskforce in place similar to that of the Governor of community leaders, business leaders that are a part of our team. They are...they help formulate like these programs, these food drives, and also planning for the resiliency and recovery of Covid-19.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I think the Governor had like a big picture in mind, not so much giving out individual bags of food but more of, you know, how do we recover, where do we create new industries. Those are the kinds of questions we need to know because our thousands of visitor industry jobs were supplanted. So, now we have to replace those jobs with other types of businesses, 'cause I don't think we can as Ms. Fukumoto said, we're not going to recover that industry overnight and possibly ever to where we were pre-Covid, you know, Covid-19. So, hopefully the Mayor will have...be looking at those kinds of issues on a broader scale so that we...and then I think he ought to include the Council, maybe not me but perhaps...oh, who has business? Economic development...our Vice-Chair, Chair of this Committee and Vice-Chair of the Council, you may want to include her in your discussions. Thank you.

MR. MIYAKE: Member Lee, the taskforce is also...Mayor has also given the taskforce to have them look at what shovel-ready projects have within the County so we can get that moving to keep core economic activities going. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And just dovetailing off of Member Lee's inquiry, yes, we need to diversify, now we got to put the pedal to the metal 'cause we've been talking about it for years while the visitor industry has carried us, but now virtually no visitor industry so now we really got to

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look at other options to keep our economy going. Just to follow up that question I had for Ms. Yoshimura, I was...when I jumped the gun. Just what is the term night differential mean under Budget Details 11-12?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember Molina, night differential is a extra or an amount that is paid per hour when you're working between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. So, if your regular hours are from 11:00 p.m. till 7:00 a.m. then from 11:00 p.m. till 7:00 a.m. you'll get maybe like 60 cents per hour additional, that's the differential for working the night shift. There's also a night overtime that you might see and the night overtime is just for the overtime hours, whoever works overtime hours within that period, it's paid at one-and-a-half times, so it might be 90 cents rather than the 60 cents. And it's, it may differ by collective bargaining the hours and the amount.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. 'Cause yeah, I saw an increase and probably most likely we may see an increase by the end of this fiscal year too or on or about the same you think?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Probably about the same. It just depends on what the collective bargaining agreements come out at.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MS. YOSHIMURA: It will change the amount.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, great. Thank you for the response. Question for Mr. Miyake, just with regards to the role of your community liaisons, what has their role been now in assisting with the pandemic, and are all of the EAs still coming to work or do you have more of a skeleton crew? Because I know the importance of social distancing especially up in the Mayor's Office is really important. Can you comment on that?

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Member Molina. As you know, all the liaisons as I said they're all hands on deck working 24/7. So for example, I have the Molokai Community Liaison on island to help with the test, the drive-thru test sites. We just sent out masks. We're going to donate some to like Molokai General and the fire and police there as well. They all report like I have a shift when they come in so those that are more in the vulnerable age will come on the weekends, man the call center, and I just rotate them during the food distributions, or we reach out to the departments as well for any volunteer or non-essential workers that can help out during this time.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you for that responses. I ask that 'cause, you know, no matter Covid crisis or not, you're going to have constituents calling the Mayor's Office, I want my road fixed and, you know, the, yeah, your liaisons are the, I guess the intermediary between the departments and the Mayor's Office, to try and coordinate possible site visits and whatnot. So, and lastly you folks, the Mayor is still using that Crown Vic car as the Mayor's car? Is it still in existence, that car is still running?

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MR. MIYAKE: Yes, that Mayor's one is still running.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. 'Cause I was just thinking it's getting on in years and I know the Mayor has been putting in a lot of hours, 'cause when I worked for former Mayor Arakawa, we were encouraged to drive the Mayor around because we certainly don't want our Mayor, you know, asleep at the wheel so to speak and get into some kind of accident, especially with Mayor Victorino working these long hours. So, maybe in the future we could consider, you know, getting a better, more fuel-efficient vehicle as well. So, any thoughts?

MR. MIYAKE: Yes, thank you. Mayor Victorino is all about these hybrid vehicles so, you know, that's why we never...he's very selfless so he never did think of himself and never did change that car. But that is something to consider so thank you for that, Member Molina.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Is that four more minutes?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Your reduced time here. Okay, you ready?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are you going to call, are you calling on any resource people? Shall I get them ready for you before I start your timer?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, Ms. Jody Bowman of Common Ground Collective and Mr. Ian Chan Hodges of the ESG.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, Ms. Bowman first?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I was going to...I have a...yes, we'll go with Ms. Bowman.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, Ms. Bowman, will you please unmute yourself and turn on your video? Ms. Bowman?

MS. BOWMAN: Yes, hi. Sorry, you caught me snacking. Hi.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Mahalo, Ms. Bowman.

MS. BOWMAN: Tell me if I start to get reverb...

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hold on, Member Sinenci. Let me also prepare Mr. Chan Hodges. Mr. Chan Hodges?

MR. CHAN HODGES: Yes, I'm here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Hi, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He's ready for you too. Okay, Member Sinenci, ready?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Ready.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, so for Ms. Bowman, we have, we were going to propose \$30,000 for the Common Ground Collective. In doing so, with the \$30,000 can...is this monies can be leveraged to increase your organization's production?

MS. BOWMAN: Oh, for sure. We picked...we're...we were projecting to pick 10,000 pounds of fruit in the year 2020, and we have picked over 5,000 pounds in the first quarter, and so this money would be used to keep that momentum rolling.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you. And then is there a figure, your total operational budget?

MS. BOWMAN: I'd be happy to get back to you on that. I don't have that number right in front of me but we do have that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. If you can send that to us we'd really appreciate it. Thank you, Ms. Bowman.

MS. BOWMAN: Yeah, I can get it to you within the next 15 minutes or so.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you. And then my next --

MS. BOWMAN: Yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: --was for Ms. Fukumoto, Chair. We had received an e-mail from the West Maui Watershed and they were asking about Department of Health giving some water quality monitoring funds of 38,529. And they were asking if that monies could be directed through OED to help fund the Hui O Ka Wai Ola's efforts this year.

MS. FUKUMOTO: All the environmental funds are going to be handled through Makale`a in the Mayor's Office so I will forward her that question. Are you suggesting --

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. FUKUMOTO: --a line item for this?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It looks like it's specific to...yes, we are.

MS. FUKUMOTO: I'll have her contact you about...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you, Kay. And then my final question is for Mr. Ian Chan Hodges, we're looking to fund the ESG again this year. We found that there was a lot of benefits to having all of these economists fly into Maui. But in your proposal you have a creation of a taskforce, and so how would the taskforce support capital deployment and address community needs?

MR. CHAN HODGES: Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. That's a good question. So, basically the taskforce would be made up of people who came to the summit and also other people. And I'll give one example of how the taskforce could support this. The municipal bond market right now, last month froze so we've actually been inviting people on the taskforce who actually could help us sort of think through that. We also have people on the taskforce who are involved with some of the biggest pension funds in the country, and they're actually looking at the kind of ahupua`a model we talked about, to be able actually to deploy capital into Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you, Mr. Hodges. Also, we're looking to create policies and strategies that help to mitigate the instability of that municipal bond market. So, are there other strategies that ESG can help the County with creating policies that can support economic stimulus?

MR. CHAN HODGES: So, regarding your question towards municipal bonds...can I go ahead and finish, Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, please go ahead and finish.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Thank you. The Federal Reserve this morning, the Federal Reserve Board actually initiated a policy to deal with the freezing in the municipal bond markets. Unfortunately, it actually doesn't directly apply to Maui County, 'cause it only applies to cities that are over a million population, but it does apply to the State of Hawai'i. And so, there's people that we have...they were asking...participating in the taskforce who were part of the summit who actually do work on a daily basis with the Federal Reserve, actually mostly out of the, out of DC and out of the labor unions there, and also...so basically be able to look at how we can address that and to make sure the County when it's ready to float bonds can do so and also have a market for them.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Hodges. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, before I do my five minutes we do have Ms. Jill Tokuda who was asked to serve as a resource. So, I don't remember who asked to serve...who asked her to come back to serve as a resource.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I think it was Tamara. Tamara, did you have a question for her? For Jill Tokuda with Nisei Veterans? No?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair, I have --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --a question for Ian Chan Hodges if I could follow up real quickly before he leaves.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But you used up all your time already. Okay. But I would like to while we have Ms. Tokuda on the line, if no one has any questions for her I would like to release her.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would have asked her, but I didn't know...

VICE-CHAIR KING: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I'll...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I didn't know she was there. I thought...I'm sorry. I would have asked her a question but I understand I used my time up.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members. We have two Members who would like to ask questions of resource people, are there any objections to allowing Committee Vice-Chair King to have one question of Mr. Chan Hodges and Member Paltin to have one question of Ms. Tokuda?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, it looks like there's an objection. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: No, only one question.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One question and not like a thread of questions. Don't be sneaky. Okay. Member...Committee Vice-Chair King, please go ahead and then Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Okay, promise it's only one question. Thanks for being here, Ian. So, I just wanted to ask you if you...if this funding was going to help you...are you at all working with Tiare Irvine on that common bond project she's working on and would this help you to assist her? She was at your...

MR. CHAN HODGES: I know about the project.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. She was at your ESG...

MR. CHAN HODGES: But to answer your question, I know about the project. Sorry. I know about the project, we're not working directly together, but I do know that the purpose of this is to actually connect the capital to what community needs are. So, whatever the community needs that's what we're trying to do.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, you might be able to follow up with her?

MR. CHAN HODGES: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Thank you, Vice-Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Mahalo again, Mr. Ian Chan Hodges, for serving as resource and for returning to our meeting. Mahalo for joining us.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay.

MR. CHAN HODGES: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Tokuda, for being on the line. My question was if you don't get the full funding from us and I understand there's other sources, would you still be able to holomua with the project?

MS. TOKUDA: Unmute myself, can you hear me?

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

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MS. TOKUDA: Yes, okay. All right, perfect. No, you know, obviously it would be extremely helpful for us to be able to get the \$200,000 that's in the Mayor's Budget, but we are very conscious of the fact that there might need to be some decreases in the appropriations that are giving so we are really working hard to try to leverage all of the dollars that we're getting from the GIA that we're awarded to trying to also challenge and leverage some of the private foundations that we're coming up and asking money for. So, it definitely helps when public sector provides some funds because then we can go out to the general community and funders as well and say hey, can you at least match it, do a challenge. So, every bit's going to help. We've already got the money to start proceeding on the initial work on it, and again the goal really is that this be shovel ready shortly so that we can start putting Maui businesses and Maui workers, you know, back out there and working and earning money.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mahalo, Ms. Tokuda. Mahalo, Chair and Committee.

MS. TOKUDA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Mahalo, Ms. Tokuda, for returning and serving as a resource. Aloha. Okay. Okay, my last five minutes. Okay. One, I think maybe Mr. Miyake. So last I heard, there was a hiring freeze, is there a consideration for, to lift that hiring freeze so that we can get some of these unemployed residents employed? And if not, can you please explain how the hiring freeze is saving the County funding or money when we've already funded those positions?

MR. MIYAKE: I'm sorry, Chair. Can you please repeat the question?

VICE-CHAIR KING: You might want to start your time again too.

MR. MIYAKE: Sorry, I know. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo...

MS. YOSHIMURA: I can try to answer the question, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Budget Director?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Right now the Mayor has put on a hiring freeze, pretty much of all the non-essential employees. So, he's still continuing...we're still continuing with the hiring of uniform personnel for police and fire. The other positions we have right now just put a temporary freeze on any filling of any vacancies mainly too because the County operations have pretty much slowed down. So, the savings on those positions, I know the money is budgeted, but at this point, we do have people working from home. So, if we did hire new people, we wouldn't have people to train them so we would be bringing them on basically and having them stay home. So, at this point, we didn't feel the need to actually bring people on until we get back to normal business, and then we can take a look at that moving forward.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director, for explaining that it's not a Countywide hiring freeze, it's only a hiring freeze for those that could be working in office settings where multiple people are when we're trying to social distance and stay at home, work from home.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Key personnel, emergency workers, they're all still being filled, the positions are still being filled.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that explanation. Okay, and then I wanted to make a quick clarification, we're talking about the ag promotion grant for \$150,000. And I know...I just wanted to differentiate that what Ms. Ness was talking about are micro grants and not micro loans. So, someone said micro loans earlier and that was not what Ms. Ness was advocating for, she was advocating for micro grants. And then I just, I wanted to thank Chair Lee for the idea of implementing a recovery taskforce to address the aftermath of what we're going through right now with the pandemic. I think that's a really important...I think it's really important to distinguish between a Covid task...Covid-19 taskforce which is, you know, addressing the immediate needs and trying to mitigate the impacts. But moving forward, you know, I think, you know, there's a separation and maybe a new group, a new taskforce to focus on recovery is a good idea. And getting someone from the Council who, you know, is...has...is...has a record of running a business like our Committee Vice-Chair is a good suggestion, I like that idea. And that's all I had right now. Mahalo. I'll sell my last one-and-a-half minutes. Just kidding. Okay, we still have a lot of business. Okay, Members, so that was our two rounds of five minutes. And we have 18 priority proposals. Member Hokama has one, Member Molina has one, Member Sugimura has three, Committee Vice-Chair King has four, Member Paltin has one, Member Sinenci has six, and I have two. Okay. So, we'll start with Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. I have on my proposal for you and the Members, it is my Countywide priority number two. I had come up with...and again this is a guesstimate, \$1 million of General Fund whereby 350,000 would be used for Molokai, 350 for Lānaʻi, and 300 for East Maui. My thoughts on this was how in the '60s and 1970s--I'm dating myself--there was a program I think Ms. Lee would recall, it was called CETA, C-E-T-A, the Comprehensive Employment Training Act. And I would...seeing we would maybe duplicate that program to, more to fit this County again, to help us doing the transitioning that all the Members have made some comment about diversification of the economy. And I would look at this as an employment training type of grant for rural communities as one way to diversify future job opportunities. And so, this was my proposal.

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Hokama. Any thoughts about the rest of Maui since we're, the entire island is really considered rural but any thoughts

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about the rest about...as far as training programs and what this is supposed to be used for, accessibility to that?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Well, I...yeah, thank you for that question. And quickly too, because of everyone's time factors, I will just say that for the basic core of Maui, I look to MEDB and our High Tech Park to come up with recommendations and opportunities how that sector could grow and expand. That is the purpose why we created the Technology Park with special zoning and permitted uses so that they could be creative and see how that sector of our economy should be growing and providing more job opportunities. So, I look at them to give us guidance and advice. I look at Mahi Pono for additional components with agriculture, with HFUU and Maui Farm Bureau. And I look to the educational sector to see if that is another area of expansion for our residents in education and health field as future job diversifying engines. And that's what I'm looking at for the university and educational system to help provide.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, so you'd be open to possibly putting money into MEDB to expand one of their programs for this as well?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. Like whether it was Women in Technology or those type of initiatives, yes I'm very open to all of those potentials.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. I forgot to ask the Department if they wanted to comment on Member Hokama's proposal.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Any type of training program would be much appreciated. You know, we're looking at these rural areas and trying to see whether we can deploy some tech jobs there, whether it's medical coding, you know, other type of coding type of classes. So, I just wanted to clarify that we could use these for those kinds of training programs.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Member Sinenci, question for Member Hokama or the Department?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No, Chair. I just wanted to comment that I'm supportive of it, especially if looking forward post-Covid-19, that we would need additional funds to amp up the economy. So, I appreciate the foresight for our rural districts. Mahalo, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Sorry for the delay. Let's see, you want my proposal right now, we're ready to go? Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, question for Member Hokama or the Department.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, no. No question. I'm just raring to go. I think that's a very good proposal. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Always eager beaver here.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I know. I know.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi. I'm supportive of the proposal. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can support the proposal, my only caveat is that I think that these should be for not things that depend on tourism. It's for like economic things that we don't need tourists for whatever it is to flourish.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, my plan was for, more for diversified areas of the economy, Ms. Paltin, it wouldn't be for the visitor industry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. But as long as that's how it is then I'm supportive.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, yeah. I think we have great opportunities in agriculture, education, and health sectors.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. You know like backyard aquaponics or something, or like even having people set up aquaponics for other people or whatever it is but something that doesn't even depend on the numbers that tourism brings to sustain it. Because, you know, we could have businesses that aren't tourist related but it relies on the additional numbers of tourists. So, any kind of thing that supports us, healthcare, education, so forth.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I like this. When I was with MEDB on the board last term, I think they take up items like this so I think that would be a good match. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Member Molina, you have one proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, here we go. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. My proposal relates to the Clean and Safe Program for Paia Town, under the Office of the Mayor, OED economic development, business, and technology grants, Page 384, which is a new item, an increase of 100,000 for the Clean and Safe Program for Paia Town.

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The monies will be used for a grant for the purchase of trash receptacles and the coordination of the Clean and Safe Program. The Paia Town Association is no longer in existence; however, there are new efforts to organize a new community association in the area so the previous trash receptacle program has been discontinued. The community has requested a program similar to Wailuku and the Lahaina Clean and Safe Programs. Now, according to Erin Wade of the Department of Management she states that if the community association is not set up to initiate the program, there are other nonprofits that could implement the Clean and Safe Program. And the idea behind this appropriation would be to issue a grant to purchase receptacles and initiate the implementation of the Clean and Safe Program. Residents and business reps have indicated to me that the lack of trash receptacles contributes to debris on the streets and sidewalks in the area, and to maintain the quality of the cleanliness and walkability of the community, the Clean and Safe Program can work to improve hygiene in Paia Town. And of course hygiene is everything nowadays. So, that is my proposal. And again, this estimate of \$100,000 was given to me and determined with the assistance of Ms. Wade who is very familiar with the Clean and Safe Programs. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay, Department, any comments on Member Molina's proposal?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair? Could I make the recommendation that if you're going to fund this program, put the funding under the Department of Management. That's where we have the Clean and Safe Programs for West Maui and Wailuku. So, we'd keep the programs all together.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well, whatever it takes, as long as we get that \$100 [sic] appropriation increase and get those trash receptacles for Paia and implementing that program, that's fine, whatever it takes. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Oh and I forgot, I...mahalo, Member Hokama, for your proposal. I support it and I don't have any questions, and I support your proposal, Member Molina, and I don't have any questions. Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I support it. I think it's a good program. I think we should add South Maui. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. And then we'll go to Member Sugimura. Oh, you muted yourself.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Sorry, wrong way. Definitely a good idea. Wailuku Town first implemented that and I was part of the evolution and I've seen it grow, so I would love to include Upcountry too and but we'll wait our turn. I did send you a text by the

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way, Chair, that Tasha Kama said she had sent in three priorities this afternoon or something, and she's on her way back, making her way back.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I'm here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I just got here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, we got you back. And I got your text, Member Sugimura. Mahalo. Okay. Member...Pro Temp Kama, did you hear Member Molina's proposal?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, I did not.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But I'm going to go look at it. But I assume it's a good one. He's a good guy, why wouldn't it be good? And I pretty much support both of our proposals. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Member Paltin and then Chair...oh, Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just had a question on what Member Molina envisioned as far as, you know, for Lahaina we have a trash program where they throw the recyclables in the trash barrels and they have these people that come and pull the recyclables out. And I just was wondering if you wanted to have separate like trash and recyclables or if you had even thought that far ahead?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: You know honestly, I haven't thought about that possibility but it may be...I think it's certainly worthy of consideration. 'Cause yeah, sometimes people will just throw trash and the recyclables in the same rubbish can. So, if the funding does provide room for creating a separate receptacle for recyclables, I'm all for that. And especially it's all about hygiene too, yeah, we don't want people sticking their hands in the real messy stuff mixing in those recyclable stuff, kind of yucky. But yeah, good thought on that, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, if I could do Lahaina over again, I would separate it but something about the Historic District, I'm not sure. So, yeah, I prefer it separated.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I support Mr. Molina. I like his proposal, especially about hygiene and sanitation. I'm supporting completely on those.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I support. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I'm supportive of anything for health and wellness. I'm supportive. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Actually, I do have one question, Member Molina. So, the Clean and Safe Program in Wailuku and in Lahaina and Member Paltin can correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe like the Lahaina Action Town Center, whatever it's called, their plan is to first have the County, you know, pay for the pilot of the program and if it's successful, the businesses were going to help pitch in for the ongoing cost. If that was something that the businesses in Paia were open to, you know, doing after maybe the first year to see if it's successful and beneficial.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: You know, in response to your question, it's difficult because there's no community association currently. I've just talked to some individual business owners, but they did mention, one of them did mention to me that possibility as a trial run so to speak. But until we get a community association out there, it's really hard to determine what is best. But I think we should consider all options and I think that's a good consideration, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay, Member Sugimura has three proposals. Okay, I'll put six minutes on the clock. Please proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Let's see. Okay. So, one is in my pot, I just wanted to put in at their request Pukalani Community Association wanted the, their golf cart parade, their Christmas parade and I'm going to assume that this Covid-19 is going to be done by then. I look towards maybe the Department having wisdom once you hear what's happening in the, you know, greater community. And the other one is a request from the Kula Community Association and the glycine which is those vines that grow on and suffocate the trees or the jacaranda trees is really where it started from, but I wanted to get a Teens on Call to help with glycine removal and make it a community project. So, those are the two items that I have for my, towards my \$140,000 pot for Upcountry. And I've learned to really not touch it because then as things come up, it's better to, you know, have it free for other organizations. And the other one is the \$1.5 million that's designated for axis deer and I think Member Hokama also talked about it. And for that, I really would like to see it be called ungulates so that it's not only for axis deer, because we have a huge problem with not only axis deer although Upcountry has a big problem with that but to give it more levity. And also that we need a...I think this came up from Member Hokama's Committee, that we need a management plan so that we understand what each island needs to do or wants to do. So, I wanted to have the funds available to develop management plans for each island basically and then to have funds available for removal, whether it's, you know,

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managing or taking it that next step forward. And then last is I could tell just from the discussion today but Visitors Bureau. So, Visitors Bureau has 3.5 million and what I would like to suggest is that because we know that this...we're all working towards this Covid-19 not to last a lifetime but we will see light at the end of the tunnel with all of our hard work. At this time when I was writing it, it was 7,000 people who were laid off at that time, but I guess the numbers are now 24,000. But to put in place a plan so that we can get working families, you know, back to work. We're hearing agriculture and we have to have more than a, to rely on the visitor industry but to get a multi-prong approach to how we're going to get ourselves out of this. So, I was thinking, looking at the \$3.5 million, asking the Visitors Bureau to come up with a plan to look at how we can get ourselves back to a comfortable place of managed visitors and our economy in general. So, those are the three, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay, Ms. Fukumoto or anyone from Department, would you like to comment on Member Sugimura's proposals?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Thank you. Yes. With respect to the 250,000, the Maui Visitors Bureau wouldn't be the entity to do a strategic plan for this. So, we may consider, you know, putting it under a different category.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So, where were you suggesting or who are you suggesting better to do that? MEDB possibly? Director? Sorry.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Yes, sorry, we're just conferring with Budget Director. MEDB may be considered for this.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Or the college.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. I am also recognizing that we, you know, that the money for Visitors Bureau is something that is...well, visitors are something that is part of our economy and that we need to look at it and maybe do more, what everybody has been saying is manager...manage the visitor industry and not having it kind of be so successful that we've been seeing and it being a great tug to our residents. So --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --there has to be some kind of plan.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll ask the Members if anyone has questions for you or for the Department. Committee Vice-Chair King and then Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I support the, whatever the Member wants to put in her Upcountry fund. I notice that the Upcountry...that all of the district funds got the

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word “art” added to it so I guess it’s not just about cultural and economic development anymore. But it may be something we want to open up as far as the description of that. The ungulate mitigation funding, I’m supportive of the baseline study. I think that we’ve been talking about meaning to do that. I think if we’re looking at that 1.5 million, that needs to be worked out in the decision making, because I do support, you know, changing it to the greater term of feral animals, not just ungulates maybe. But thank you for putting that baseline study in, because I think we really need that. And then the Visitors Bureau funding I know it looks like we need to move to that 250, but I just want to say that I’m not supportive of keeping that whole 3.5 million in there. So, I know we’ll talk about it when we get further down the line, but I agree with the testifiers today that we need to diversify and putting all our money in that one pot is how we got to this position now where tourism went away and we’re in the toilet.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I, too, support the axis deer funding and incorporating the larger ungulate population, that’s a great idea. It opens up to even more invasive species. And thank you, Member Sugimura, I mean I like having that conversation about MVB. I mean we can still have, I believe we can still have tourism, but we’ve got a great opportunity to address tourism as far as the numbers and keeping with the Maui Island Plan. Also, maybe reinventing tourism where it is more sustainable for the aina and we can still, you know, invite people eventually but have it where it’s...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you have a question for Member Sugimura or the Department?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: None at this time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Supportive of the first two proposals, just would like to ask Member Sugimura how she arrived at the \$250,000 figure for the strategic plan related to the MVB grant?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: It is a good guess. I think it’s so important though, we need to kind of get, wrap our thoughts around it. You can change it. I think it’s something that I would like, you know, to see and maybe 250 is not enough, I don’t know.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, thank you.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm in general support of the proposals. You might want to use a broader word than ungulate. You know, feral animals or, you know, ungulates are hoofed mammals, so you may as well catch 'em all. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Hi. Thank you. No questions. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi. So, my question for the first one is, you know, I think Ms. Fukumoto, I don't know if she only told me but she was saying don't proviso stuff, just tell them what you want and for the, not knowing what's going to happen at Christmas, I would just tell them, you know, if whatever because we don't know what's gonna happen, proviso it. I was actually thinking of cutting that district pots by 50 percent along with our travel so just we don't unduly unburden our taxpayers. If the Teens on Call wanted that glycine removal project, was that something that they were into or did you make it up?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, I actually talked to them and they helped us with, we did two glycine removal projects with volunteers from I want to say Maui Beautiful or whatever, and Teens on Call came. And so, I asked them if they would take it on. The KCA is not interested in doing glycine removal so I'm trying to solve one of their priorities. But I think I'm going to take off the Pukalani golf thing and just ask them to apply, because I don't want to have to go through a budget amendment like we did, you know, with some of our other pots. And --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --but this one...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --the feral animals one, I'm still waiting for the written answer from my axis deer question, but my hope would be that between Member Sugimura, Member Hokama, and the Mayor that you guys would agree on something that we all could agree on. Because I mean I'm supportive of the idea of feral animals, ungulates, axis deer, but I just don't feel like I have enough details on any of them to say like this is the one I want, this is the one I want, this is the one I want. And I think we're all kind of on the same page so it would be great if we actually got on the same page. And then the last one, the tourism situation, I would...I don't know if it's within the County's purview, but I think, you know, anything strategic that we do needs to address the amount of rental cars and the current capacity of our road infrastructure to handle them. You know, if we're coming back and tourism is a thing which I mean I don't see how we can stop it, we can't even stop it like during a pandemic. But I think, you know, anything strategic needs to address that and I don't know if that's within our County purview or if anybody from that Administration knows. But just looking...I haven't seen it in person 'cause I've been locked down in my house, but I

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saw pictures of all the rental cars near the airport, and that right there is the 4:30, you know, like you can have a line of cars from the airport to Kaanapali and back and still have cars left over. So, that needs to be part of any strategic plan and say, you know, what our infrastructure can handle and make it a more pleasurable experience for all of our visitors that way and residents.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, do you have a question for that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that within our purview, rental cars? And strategic planning...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, you're talking about my Committee, right, the WIT Committee that has transportation, so that's one of the items that myself and MPO were taking up. So, thank you for bringing it up. I didn't put it on as a priority because I plan to take it up once Member Lee allows us to go back in full swing or after budget, so.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or the virus stops spreading. Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. And then Pro Temp Kama. And just a reminder to everyone that we do have one more department, Department of Liquor Control. So, and then we have about 13 more priorities. So, you know, we're going to, you know, we're going to go into full discussion and vote on these things in decisions week. So, if you don't have any questions then just let me know you don't have any questions and then we'll move forward, okay? Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I don't have any questions, let's move on.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes, yes. Oh sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay. I don't have any questions either. Okay, Committee Vice-Chair King, you have four proposals.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Can everybody hear me okay? The first one is for adding back in another 75,000 to the Maui Film Festival to...we funded it for 100,000 this year, in this current year and the Mayor cut it. I just want to say from Barry Rivers, it's important to note that without the \$100,000 grant provided by the County of Maui for this year's event, last year might have been its last. The County funding allowed them to hire more than 15 Maui-based companies, independent contractors, employees, alongside some specialists from the mainland to again bring the event to life. And I want to note here that it looks like they probably will be postponing it depending on what happens this month till September or October of this year because of the Covid, the no travel. They may end up cancelling it all together depending on what happens after that. But their most recent year, the festival generated \$6,238,728 in economic activity, in addition to more than \$1 billion in media impressions with a value of 7...1 billion media impressions with a value of a 7,553,000. The festival is known far and wide. It has a track record of attracting thousands of island guests from around the world and being a special opportunity for Mauians to commune with the

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community and island visitors, not just in Wailea where many of its events are held but island wide and especially at the MACC in Kahului which also attracts robust attendance. Receiving Fiscal Year 2021 funds would allow Maui Film Festival to continue to serve the island it proudly calls home. That's that one. Do you want me to go through all of them, Chair, and then take questions after?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, you have eight minutes. You took two-and-a-half minutes for that one.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, the next one is the Food Security Hawai'i and I have the budget that I can share with all of you folks but the...I'm just going to talk about the 75,000 for now for their program. Their program budget is actually \$520,000 and so their funding is also coming from private donations, County...the County funding is requested is 75,000, GoFundMe, other grants, seed subscriptions, sales, and fruit tree subscription sales. So, I can send you that budget for what the total is and then we would just be supplementing 75,000 for...and their goal is as I said earlier 1,000 gardens, backyard gardens and 10,000 fruit trees for this year. The next one is the environmental protection for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, and that's putting back in the 225,000 proviso for coastal water quality monitoring. It's a very important activity that MNMRC does and it needs to continue, especially in light of what we've been going through with the Covid-19. And then the last, my last one is environmental protection, the 325,000 for an implementation program to maintain and protect South Maui wetlands. We've been kind of losing the wetlands. We need to...we have an inventory of wetlands that's been done by the KCA group, and we have 24 acres left sustaining the environment and acting as Kihei's kidneys. So, we need to preserve, protect, and maintain these wetlands before we lose them. Those are my four, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Committee Vice-Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Department, do you have any comments on the four proposals?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Chair, I just had one comment. Because we're doing provisos for both 225,000 and 325,000, so the initial budget was 1.9 for that fund, and if we're going to do a separate...fire ants also and I guess we just want to make sure that we're leaving some room in the budget.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. No, I understand, and we probably would...the 325,000 would be new money for the Environmental Protection Fund. The other 225,000 was in there last year so just trying to reinstate that money to make sure that we get...we continue with the shoreline water testing for...along the shoreline for South Maui and West Maui.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay, we'll go with Member Sinenci and then Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. No questions at this time but supportive. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, certainly a very worthy proposal. Thank you, Madam Chair. No questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Chair Lee?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, no questions but as Ms. Fukumoto mentioned, we need to add funds to that account. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Paltin? No questions? Okay. Member Sugimura and then Pro Temp Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions, Chair. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Did you mute us?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I muted myself. Okay. I don't know what...where I was mute, I think I said I have no questions and I'm supportive. Did you hear that part? And then I muted myself. Okay, yeah. Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I wasn't here, but thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, you have one proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, I'm basically looking for direction from the Department on this one. You know, with all the speaking and the e-mails about farm apprentice mentorship, we kind of feel a little bit like West Maui has been left out

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of the loop. So, this is a proposal for a West Maui centric...where with the vulnerability in tourism we need a West Maui specific farming program that teaches farming in a sustainable way, KAEC Family Farming Program is an apprenticeship program targeted for West Maui, and this, you know, as Ms. Higbee I didn't even know that she was going to testify but that it was an interest of hers. But they have student through adult capability with this money. Actually, I think the student capability comes from Kamehameha Schools' money but it's a well-rounded program. Asking for 55,000, it's through Ku'ia Agricultural Educational Center on Kamehameha Schools' lands. And it would be under the leadership of Kaipo Kekona. So, I put it in ag promotion because it seemed like it fit, but if there's a better place that it should be, I'm open to suggestion from the Department.

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

MS. FUKUMOTO: Mahalo. Just wanted to clarify, were you going to proviso this from the 150 or add 55 to the 150?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm open to your direction, Ms. Fukumoto.

MS. FUKUMOTO: I'd certainly love to add it. We could add it to the ag promotion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All right, add it, it is.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. We'll go to Pro Temp Kama and then Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: None. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee? She's not there. Okay. Member Molina, then Member Sinenci.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No questions, supportive.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. I don't have any...oh, I guess one quick question. So, in the FAM Program, West Maui residents did not participate?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not sure if they participated but if they did, it wasn't located in West Maui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I see. Okay. Mahalo. Okay. Member Sinenci...Committee Vice-Chair King, did I skip you?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, you did. You did.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KING: But it's okay. No, that's okay. I don't have to go first every time. No, I just wanted to say that yeah, there were people who participated, James Simpliciano participated as a mentor up in West Maui. But will this money be going to, it would be going to a different...not the school but a separate organization?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: KAEC is a member of Hawai'i Farmers Union United, but this would be a specific West Maui program for them. They do receive funds from Kamehameha Schools and I think that mainly funds their non-adult programs. This is to do a mentorship with the...have like the college portion of it and then the hands-on portion of it. Ideally, they wanted to do it for a two-year session, but we discussed it and, you know, for budget reporting purposes and whatnot, we decided that a one-year interval will be better. I think Monica Cajudoy Bogar who does Napili FLO Farms is involved and Kaipō Kekona, and it's just, you know, a west district centric one because, you know, there's...with this everybody staying at home, it really cuts carbon emissions. Plus too, you know, they're going to be farming in West Maui, West Maui people, it's a different climate than other areas. So...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Was the question answered?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah, my question was answered.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right, mahalo. Okay. And we can discuss this more in decisions week when we vote. Okay. All right. So, we have six more...I mean Member Sinenci has six proposals.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, the first, my first proposal was again to proviso the 700,000 for little red fire ant eradication, adding all the MISC items under the environmental protections because it was cut out in the MISC. Five hundred thousand for Miconia eradication, an additional 500,000 for coqui frog eradication, and then the 225 for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. And I guess my question for the Department was if that 1.9 funding was geared for other things besides MISC items? So, that was my first question. My second item is the ESG Summit. As you know the 2020 conference was a huge success and brought together community stakeholders and financial industry to create a new paradigm of responsible investing and bring additional investment funds to Hawai'i and Maui County. And our ERS/EUTF also participated and, you know, and has also adopted

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ESG standards to promote long-term sustainable investments in Maui County. And so, they would...some of their itemized items was to do the Ahupua`a Summit again, maybe even do it virtually; establish and coordinate a capital deployment for community needs taskforce; develop and structure ESG investment and facilitate investment flow into Maui County; and to develop the ahupua`a beneficial community investment audit. So, that was for 150,000. The third one was a district request to fulfill a community need. We wanted to proviso 250,000, well, add whichever the Department suggests to the Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike nonprofit. For the past 15 years, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike has, you know, completed some much needed services for our kūpuna, especially fixing up homes, building handicapped ramping for our elderly population. And so, we've definitely seen a substantial decline in and poor living conditions specifically for kūpuna. Many kūpuna raise grandchildren, some of them due to the, you know, drug addiction in my community. So, and of course, you know, there is no...albeit we do have some housing projects coming through--mahalo--but still we still live in multiple households and a lot of them are really dilapidated. So, we would look towards those kūpuna that are most vulnerable and need the added care. So, that was for 250,000. The other one and we can discuss again if we're to continue the Mayor's health program into the, past July, so we just proviso'd another million into the health program. And then, oh, the next one is \$75,000 for a new expansion position, a Hawaiian affairs liaison. So, our Committee received a letter from the Mālama Kakanilua, and again they had a press release from the UN about, you know, added protections for sand burials, and they were looking to form an investigative committee and maybe use the sand mining report and look at areas where maybe the County could do an eminent domain or purchase properties in the sand dune area. So, we had looked at maybe a resource person that could maybe assist the archaeologists, we're not sure, and I'm open to the some of the Members' recommendations. And the fifth one was the Common Ground Collective. I did receive from Ms. Bowman their Common Ground Collective assist food-insecure sectors through the redistribution of harvested food that would otherwise rot through actively educating and providing hands-on assistance to communities. And they're able to promote responsible resource management and environmental stewardship. And it looks like their total cost, annual cost is upwards of \$98,000 so the 30,000 from the County would leverage another 54,000 in possible sales and then another 13, 14,000 of in-kind services. Then the last one and I don't know if maybe that could fall under the ag promotion funds. The last one was our Pā`animai Park. Currently, and this is a district proposal, currently we have three County parks in Hana, one of them, the beach park is under --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: --renovations because of the --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's under Parks and Rec.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: --sewage system.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The Hana Beach Park?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, is that for OED?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh okay, sorry. Yeah, I see that, yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Checking.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry, that's it. So, was that...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You was making sure, was keeping us on our toes, Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Is that five or six? Six.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think that was all of them. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, Department, do you have any comments? And mahalo for getting that done in half the time that you were given. Director?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Thank you, Chair. Yes, Councilmember Sinenci, just wanted to check, I think we probably need to chat about the 1.9 million because if we're going to proviso all of these, we don't have enough money. So, I will look into the 1.9 million, what other funding was utilized and whether we are adding these as separate line items.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh okay. Okay, we can chat.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Yeah. With respect to your 250,000 Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, is that...it's currently budgeted for 95,000 so are you wanting it to be a total of 250 or add 250 to the 95?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We wanted to add but we can work with that number as well, Ms. Fukumoto.

MS. FUKUMOTO: So, 250 for that program then?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Correct.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Okay. Okay. And then the health program if it does end up in a line item it would probably be in Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

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MS. FUKUMOTO: Yeah. Thank you.

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I'm generally supportive, I just have a question about the second one that you have the Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike and 'cause it says food security. Do they have something to do with food security? Your description of it, promote food security.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, thank you, Member King. They also provide pa'i ai every Thursday for kūpuna.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. That's under the same program?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Under the same program, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. No, I've been out there and I actually helped them pound poi one time. So, yeah, just do you have...do they have a budget of how they're going to spend the 250,000? I mean if it's 95 plus 250?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right, and the Director, Ms. Lipoa Kahaleuahi, she couldn't be here today, and so the main focus was, you know, a lot of our housing was built 30 years ago with pressed lumber so the majority of our kūpuna' housing, bathrooms, and kitchens are, just kind of crumble. I mean so we just needing...

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, that's good.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, we would focus in those areas I think. Beside ramping maybe looking at kitchens and bathrooms to help renovate.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, the money would be from a lot of materials then for that?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I don't think I have any other questions other than I think the Common Ground Collective when they came, I thought I heard that they could actually use more than 30,000. So, just, you know, when we get there, maybe we can find out exactly what they need. That's all.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, I think...okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, 'cause I support, I mean I think we cannot have too many ag programs, so. Thank you, Chair.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Certainly, a couple of them can be very supportive of especially like the Miconia proposal. Others I'll have some questions when we get to that point but appreciate Member Sinenci's proposals. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: No questions, Chair. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Appreciate the proposals, have questions, so I would have reservations on some of them. Be good if we knew if people were putting a proviso on something or recommending new funding. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just got to say one thing, totally support Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike. Lipoa Kahaleuahi was a junior lifeguard of ours and she's the best.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I appreciate this. I'll wait for deliberations. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay. I have two questions, Member Sinenci. The first is regarding the, regarding MISC. Last year during budget deliberations, we, I think we discussed pretty thoroughly the need for a coqui frog eradication plan.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Any status on that being developed?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, I can check with Mr. Radford. He may have sent it, I know he sent something, I'll go check and then I can disseminate if that's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. 'Cause I'd love to just eradicate it one time like all the Members we talked about last year and not have to continuously put millions of dollars into this every...oh okay. I just received in the chat Mr. Radford said all of the Committee has been sent it. So, all Members received the coqui frog eradication plan so we can go check that out. Mahalo, Mr. Radford, for continuing to stay on and

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provide the information. Okay. And then my second question is...I don't...no, that's okay. I'll figure it out after. Okay. Okay. And...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Members. And...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Members. And I can follow up on some of your questions. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, and I have two proposals. One is to...so when we...oh, let me put my timer on. When we did the departmental review before Budget started, we had Ms. Fukumoto in my Committee and we asked if Tina Silva was enough to manage all of those grants and if one person is not enough. So, I, my proposal is to add another grants manager to the OED Office, and I'd also like to...so that's one E/P, and one E/P to help us get more grants, especially after this whole stimulus bill. So, I would love for us to be more proactive and someone who is just like out there bringing, you know, more and more, you know, funding into our County. So, that's my first proposal. My second proposal is for \$150,000 for local food distribution services and then there's a number of organizations as an example. So, those are my two proposals, and I did that in less than a minute. Director, do you have any comments on my proposal?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Chair, I just want to, I don't know, hug you, thank you very much for adding additional people. I do have one grant writer and it is overwhelming because she is like looking at so many potential opportunities for grants. So, to have a second person that would be wonderful. And yes, the grants...I will get you that report that you so love at DHHC if I can get the extra help. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. So, I guess a follow-up to that is do you have space for two more E/Ps?

MS. FUKUMOTO: We will find space. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. I love when we work together like this. Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King and then Pro Temp Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KING: No questions, that was pretty self-explanatory. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Great. Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions. I totally support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: You must have been like Santa Claus to OED, you've been talking about those positions.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No questions.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. Again, I apologize if the Department gave a comment but, Chair, I believe we added a grant writer for OED in this year's budget, correct?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director?

MS. FUKUMOTO: We added a grant writer last fiscal year so she started --

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Right.

MS. FUKUMOTO: --in December of Fiscal '20, yes. This Fiscal '20. So, she started in December. There are huge possibilities for going after funding. So, I mean obviously...

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Did the new employee already secure additional or new grants?

MS. FUKUMOTO: No, she started December...

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Or how many did she apply for?

MS. FUKUMOTO: I'm sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I'm trying to understand what was done with the position we gave and if the new hire was able to get either expanded or new grants or how many grants did she apply for so I can make a, you know, what about how my Chairman's request.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I'm trying...

MS. FUKUMOTO: So, she started on December...

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. FUKUMOTO: She started on December 1st. She's applied for three grants and it's economic development administration grants so we're still in the process.

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COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. And again yeah, I bring this up because I think maybe this is one way to motivate the grant writer. I don't have a problem allowing you to secure grant writers and they get a percentage of the grant that we receive as payment for their services. So, they're motivated to perform because their pay is a percentage of the grant we receive. So, is that something we should consider? 'Cause I got no problems with that kind of motivation, you perform, you get paid. You don't perform, you don't get paid 'cause we get nothing out of it.

MS. FUKUMOTO: To do that sort of mechanism of a percentage we'd probably have to do an outsourcing instead of a County hire. This position does have --

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Is that...

MS. FUKUMOTO: --it does have a performance measure.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Because again, we don't put E/Ps in the Mayor's Office just like we don't put E/Ps in the Council's budget. So, I'm just looking at achieving what the Chair would like to do which is get more outside grants which I can support. I'm just looking at motivation and incentive to perform. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Ms. Fukumoto, did you say earlier that you sent one of your specialists to the Mayor's Office? Was that person involved with grants? Mayor's Office meaning to the Mayor, to directly under the Mayor.

MS. FUKUMOTO: No. This, for Fiscal Year 2021, Makale`a Ane, my Environmental Coordinator will be moving to the Mayor's Office as well as Alex de Roode will be moving to the Mayor's Office. I don't know whether it's physically so much as it is, you know, reporting directly to Tyson Miyake as the separate --

MR. MIYAKE: Division.

MS. FUKUMOTO: --division.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Did they help you with grants? Did they help you with grants?

MS. FUKUMOTO: Well, each of them had their own grants within their index code so Alex had his own energy grants, Makale`a took care of all of the environmental grants. So, they were a part of the grant process.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I support the Chair's proposal fully. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Paltin? Or am I going the wrong way?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. You already --

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --called on me. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Good proposals, no questions at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Members. Okay. So, we had a deadline to provide your five district priorities and five Countywide priorities by April 3rd at noon. And I received a proposal from Pro Temp Kama. And so, I figure I just let the body decide whether we would accept additional proposals. Member Kama had I think three district proposals and two Countywide. I have that number, but so she didn't propose five and five. But the deadline was on April 3rd. So, Members...Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: I'm okay with letting her be a little tardy. She's still staying within her five and five, so.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I'm fine. I would like to hear it if the Committee would allow.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: In general, Chair, if our standing committee chairs have something they'd like to have us, your Budget Committee consider within their committee parameters, I'm open to them as providing us guidance under their chairmanship of their standing committees. So, I'm open if Ms. Kama has things for the housing perspective. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, these are priority proposals. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, I'm not sure what you mean, but I believe I didn't specifically proviso anything in my district, because I wanted to leave it open as things unfold, you know, I would like to be able to have some flexibility, that's why I left that blank. But then I did propose things Countywide. Is that what you're talking about? In the district, propose priorities in the district, in our district?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And not the 140,000 under OED. District meaning...

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh yeah, that I did. I proposed two items Countywide.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I did submit five proposals, they weren't five and five. I think they were like, I think was one was four and one was three, but I did submit that. What I didn't submit and what you're looking at now is the district \$140,000. So, I wasn't sure if this is the time that we're supposed to present it, because I didn't hear when we were supposed to so I just submitted it. But that's what this is. But I did submit my Countywide and my district earlier I think when we had Housing, and I think they were all in Housing and Office of Council Services. Yeah. So, I did submit them, Chair, and this is the 140,000 district. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I see. I see.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry for the confusion.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Members. I am so appreciative of your warmth towards me. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay, so I think that's all the priority proposals, and we'll take up the 140,000 when we, you know, in decisions week. Sorry, I didn't give better guidance on that funding. Okay. All right, Members, it's 6:44 and we have Department of Liquor Control ready to go. And you all look very enthusiastic about it. So...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Let's go.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I want a drink.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Looks are deceiving.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Personal privilege break, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. We'll give the Administration time to sanitize the table, clean their area, Members time to refresh, and we'll reconvene at seven o'clock? Is that good? Seven o'clock?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Looks like every...it looks like I have consensus.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Kelly, are you coming back with wine, Kelly?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Red or white? Tasha, red or white?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Purple.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members, it's 6:45 on April 9th and the Economic Development and Budget Committee will return...reconvene at seven o'clock, and we are in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 6:45 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:02 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Economic Development and Budget Committee meeting will return to order. It is 7:02 on April 9th. And we are now on Department of Liquor Control. We have...oops. Okay. We have with us from Department of Liquor Control, Acting Director Georgette Tyau, and if you could introduce your team that you have with you. And it looks like we have Wendy and not Michele. Okay. Okay, aloha.

DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL

MS. TYAU: Good evening, Chair and Councilmembers. I'm Georgette Tyau. I'm actually the Deputy Director and here with me is Acting Liquor Control Officer IV Layne Silva.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Deputy Director. Okay.

MS. TYAU: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Would you like to please start off with some opening remarks?

MS. TYAU: Yes. So, the Department of Liquor Control consists of one program only, the Liquor Control Program. It's mandated by Chapter 281, Hawai'i Revised Statute. This program's core functions is regulating and controlling the liquor industry and the importation, manufacture, sale, and service of alcoholic beverages. Our license, our funding is derived solely from liquor license fees. This program also consists of the Liquor Education Revolving Fund which is mandated by HRS Chapter 281-60, 17(2), and 17(3). Revenues from the Liquor Education Revolving Fund is derived solely from liquor license fines. That's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Deputy Director. Okay, Members, I have five minutes on the clock. Committee Vice-Chair King?

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you. My first question is on Page 9-1 of the Budget Details, and I just wondered if you could explain the 15.6 percent increase in salary and wages. It looks like there were the same number of positions, but there was a 15 percent plus increase in salary and wages.

MS. TYAU: So, the 15.6 percent or 220,033 increase in salaries and wages is the combination of salary adjustments of 60,090, restoring the funding of positions deleted in Fiscal Year 2020 which is 162,760, and Salary Commission increases of 5,183. There is no increase to premium pay, it remains at 30,000.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. But if you were...if you, you're adding back positions that were deleted in 2020, why does it show 25 E/Ps all the way across the board? It doesn't show a decrease in '20, in last year's budget or in this current budget.

MS. TYAU: The positions were not deleted, they were unfunded. They just weren't funded for last year and one of them was funded for only \$6,000.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, is...so you're proposing to fund them this year since they weren't funded last year? Okay. And then those --

MS. TYAU: Yes. But...

VICE-CHAIR KING: --are those inspector positions?

MS. TYAU: I'm sorry, what was that?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Are those inspector positions?

MS. TYAU: Two of them...three of them are, yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, you're, I'm just assuming you're short of inspectors that means? Okay. I think that's all the questions I had, Chair. That's the only one that I earmarked.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay, we'll go with Member Sinenci and then Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department. I just had a question about the legal services on Page 3-32 under the Liquor Control Program expansion budget request, operations. What legal services were provided under the professional services?

MS. TYAU: So, actually that was just the wrong terminology. There is no legal services provided under 913012B, 6132 professional services. The expansion request is for court reporting services and investigative services. So, the court reporting services is for all of our public hearings anytime the commission and board meet. And we're just foreseeing and we always plan for public hearings in addition to our regularly

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scheduled meetings, but public hearings for rule amendments or petitions or any kind of off-island to address anyone, any applicants that may need public hearings there, so it was just for that purpose. And investigative services, just if there should be a complaint from the outside, just because we're a small Department to avoid any bias or perception thereof, we would want to get an independent investigator for any. So, it wasn't...the terminology says legal but there is no legal services under professional, it would be for those two things.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you very much, Madam Chair. And just following up on that inquiry made by Member King, regarding the positions and why it wasn't funded. If I recall last year it's been a number of years that they've had those positions vacant and weren't filled. So anyway, good evening, Madam Director. My first question relates to your vehicles. I know you're making a request for a replacement vehicle. Currently, how many vehicles do you have and what is the breakdown between Enforcement and Administration as far as how much does Enforcement have and how much does Administration have?

MS. TYAU: Currently, I believe Licensing which is the administrative services that we're asking for the replacement vehicle, it's a 2008 vehicle, Licensing currently has five, and a lot of them are older vehicles, about 14 years old. So, we're asking for this one to be replaced. We're looking at there's some vehicles that are just old and then cannot really be used, they're continuously in the shop. So, eventually we'll just be getting rid of those, but right now just to keep it so that they have cars that they can use. I think Licensing only has two cars that maybe are 2017 cars so this one would replace the 2008 vehicle that is constantly in the shop. So, that was the one vehicle that we're asking to be replaced.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. So, currently you have two vehicles, one for the Director and the Deputy. So, you have three then for licensing officials? 'Cause I mean I would think the LCOs definitely need the vehicles, they do a lot more traveling, so that's why I'm asking this question. It sounds like a lot for a small Department. So, you know, I'm just thinking maybe could instead of replacing that vehicle, maybe using a vehicle that the LCOs have? 'Cause they have I think what, maybe...how much does the LCOs have, how many vehicles?

MS. TYAU: Okay, let me clarify and correct what you just said. The Office of the Director doesn't have a vehicle, neither the Director or the Deputy has had a vehicle for years already. All of the vehicles, if the Director or Deputy wants to use a vehicle if they have a meeting or anything like that, they would use the one vehicle that is shared with Administrative Services and that is also used for our other clerks that have to go and do postage runs or pickups so not just the liquor control officers and licensing. The vehicle that we're asking to be replaced is for the Administrative Services Licensing Section --

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MS. TYAU: --which is, consists of liquor control officers. But nothing, there's nothing there in the Office --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MS. TYAU: --of the Director.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, thank you. You've answered that question. No, it's because it's unusual 'cause most departments you have directors and deputies have their own vehicles so that's why I made that inquiry. So, okay, moving on to the conferences and travel, typically you have what's called the law enforcement conferences. Are you still allowing liquor commissioners to attend these conferences when they're primarily for law enforcement or your LCOs? And if so, do you allow all commissioners or just the chair?

MS. TYAU: This past year it was limited, because Council had already cut the budget last year, it was limited to the chair and vice-chair. Previously, State conferences which is not for the liquor control officers, it is for the commission, the State Liquor _____ and Administration and so forth, and we do rotate out sometimes staff depending if it's, if we're the host. But --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MS. TYAU: --those...yes. Historically, they've all gone and attended because that's what the conference is for. Across the State all the commissioners and...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, 'cause I've noticed you've earmarked like five or five attendees from the, to attend these conferences. So, okay, and I guess with my what little time I have left, with regards to your...I guess could we request a total, your I guess number of vehicles in, for the Enforcement Division as well as the Administration? And I've got more questions on my next round, but thank you very much, Madam Chair, Madam Director.

MS. TYAU: Did you want to know how much Enforcement has?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: If you have, but yeah, if you could just give us the specifics in writing that would be fine. The number and I guess the age of these vehicles, who's it's assigned to, et cetera, something more detailed in writing would be appreciated prior to our decision making next week. Thank you.

MS. TYAU: Okay. But I would like to clarify that Council had put a proviso on the Enforcement Division vehicles that were replaced were to be used only for enforcement. So like I clarified earlier, the vehicle we're asking for is in Administration so we wouldn't be able to use the Enforcement vehicles.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Member Molina. Okay, mahalo. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. For the Department, have you seen...and again I know the impact on your licensees because we are not allowing people to gather. But have your employees found any other issues that have arisen [sic] such as illegal underage drinking has kind of like picked up or unauthorized sales of alcohol beverages? Is anything popping up on your radar screen, Department, that we may need to be aware of?

MS. TYAU: Because it's mostly retail that is taking place, we haven't had many issues. We did have some that we've seen in the beginning just through some advertisements of maybe attaching liquor, the sale of liquor or food with giving away something. So, those things have been investigated but very few, but that would be considered a possible inducement if it...so as far as the rules go, that was pretty much the extent of it at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. The other question I wanted to ask and again, I...depending on your...relying on your discretion, Director. O'ahu has, one way the restaurants have tried to recover as best as they can is they've been offering some of their takeout's, even alcoholic beverages. Is that something that this County would allow our establishments to provide for takeout purposes?

MS. TYAU: As far as right now, our response has been and it has been put out in clarification for the Mayor's emergency rules, that you have...right now the rules and laws are still in effect.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yes.

MS. TYAU: And so, as far as takeout goes, you have to be properly licensed for off-premise consumption in order to do that. I'm speaking of maybe the Class 18 small craft producer pub or a restaurant that may do growlers . . .(inaudible). . . that you can do. Small craft can sell their beer, but you have to be properly licensed to do it at this point, it's still in effect.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you for that information and clarification, Director. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, I have no questions. Thank you.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Okay, my first question is can, during this Coronavirus, can restaurants give away free beer, like put out signs free beer while you wait or are things like that, is that allowed?

MS. TYAU: No, it's not. So, that was...okay, yeah. So, I did have somebody go out and check at that time, unless we have a specific place to check we didn't find anything. But no, you cannot give away liquor, that's what I was talking about earlier, it's like an inducement. You cannot give away liquor with the sale of something else or vice versa, no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then so you guys are still working during the Coronavirus situation while we're on lockdown?

MS. TYAU: Yes, we are...no, we're still working.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then so what would it take to have more coverage on, you know, those big days like New Year's Eve holiday or Halloween, like have more coverage than just say your standard schedule? Like would it take administrative rules change, a Charter amendment?

MS. TYAU: No, we can just ensure that at the time schedules are made, that we can address those situations if we know about it ahead of time or since we know about it ahead of time. And then that way we can just make sure that we're in compliance with any collective bargaining agreements or anything.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Will you do that?

MS. TYAU: Yes, we can address that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh awesome. And then I was wondering if you were going to be replacing the hybrid with another hybrid or were you going to get a different kind of car?

MS. TYAU: Well, the one that is being replaced is a 2008, it's not a hybrid. So, we are going to be replacing it, the Mayor does require that we replace it with a hybrid, which is going to be done.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, you know, with all the bars shut down right now, I'm assuming you get revenue also from just regular liquor sales, but do you anticipate less revenue and at what point would it affect funding your operations? 'Cause you said last time that you're a self-funded group of people.

MS. TYAU: Well, because we are solely funded by liquor license fees, the majority of our revenue is the basic fees that they're going to have to pay if they want to renew their liquor license. Their liquor license is only good for a year at a time. So, if you're going to want to stay in business, you're going to have to renew and we're in that renewal period right now. Licenses expire at the end of June. The other big portion of our

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revenues are a percentage fee which is we're going to collect it from whoever is still in business, whoever renews their liquor license has to pay a percentage of their gross liquor sales which is going to be collected in September/October, around that time. And that's our main source of revenue, but it's going to be collected on monies that they've already earned this year from July 1st to June 30th. The other portion of revenue that might be affected is really a small amount like filing fees or the sale of our rulebooks or...so it's so small that we shouldn't...it shouldn't affect operations at all, because the majority of our funding is a percentage and renewal, basic fees that you have to pay in order to have a liquor license.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if it affects your operations then you guys just do RIFs by union standards or how would that work? But you would never get subsidized from the General Fund?

MS. TYAU: No. So, what happens is this is our one shot. Whatever the Council approves is what we can collect. We're not like other departments that can go back and say hey, I need more money. That's not going to happen because the basic fees, whatever applicable Carryover/Savings that goes back to them this coming year and the percentage fee is going to make up our budget. If we're short, that's it, we're not...we cannot go back to the licensees and collect more. So, whatever Council...they've approved for that's what we're going to make sure we have and then pretty much that's it. That's where we're at for the next year. So, whatever we don't use will go back to the licensees the next year in the form of Carryover/Savings which is going to be one facet that lowers the percentage.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if there was a shortfall, there's no job security for your inspectors?

MS. TYAU: We're not going to have a shortfall. Like I said, we're going to collect whatever our budget is, and as far as salaries go it's part of the budget so we're going to collect that money. As long as it's funded we're going to collect that money for it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice seeing you, Georgette and Layne. Nice seeing you, thanks for being with us at this late time of the day. I have my one question, this is probably my third year, but provided that 25,000 shall be for professional service to update the rules governing the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor of the County of Maui pursuant to audit recommendations. So, I wonder if you've done anything with this? This is in the current budget.

MS. TYAU: No, it still remains. Like I stated at our March 10th meeting, our understanding was the 25,000 was for people to review and make suggestions, but they've already done that from public input, organizations and so forth, so the public...we already have rule amendments that they've done and then rule amendments that is already up

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for review. The other rule amendments are based on just changes in State law so as up to this point we do have rule amendments for review up at Corporation Counsel still. So, we haven't used the 25.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, are you saying that you'll never use the \$25,000?

MS. TYAU: Well, it wasn't clear on because it seemed like it was for one person to review when actually it's more collectively everybody's input and inputting and then it goes to the commission to review. Once it goes to Corp. Counsel, it goes to the full commission to review --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So...

MS. TYAU: --and a public hearing.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Actually, previous discussions, this was to do an RFP for \$25,000 to get someone to review these rules so that there can be consistency and of course community input with the commission. So, we'll try again on that. And then I...the Police Department, do you know what happened to their request, Lieutenant Hankins for that 20,000 to probably do education regarding the towing bill and some other with the SADD, Students Against Drunk Driving? Was that ever approved or is the Police Department supposed to do something to make it happen?

MS. TYAU: No, what happens is it depends on Council whether you're going to allow us to use the funds in the Liquor Education Fund. The Liquor Education Fund is not money we're going to have to collect, it's money that is already there in the revolving fund. That's our grants. So, once we get approval to use that 30,000 or whatever 10 percent is at the time of the grant then we do have I believe two proposals for grants that will go before the commission to decide how they want to do it. But first we need approval of using that money and that is what we're going to be using, the grant money to give to these different places. Because the coalition is very thankful, Ashley Chapman has wrote a letter, she's very thankful that they have received that money for the past three years, but now that they're financially stable and they have funding, they don't need it anymore. But they wanted to express that that funding at least helped them to get started. So, we're hoping that this funding for the grants is going to allow other programs opportunities to expand or at least help their programs to meet their mission.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I guess I, I'll circle back with Lieutenant Hankins just to see then what the Police Department is going to do. I think they're networking with SADD, Students Against Drunk Driving. Thank you. I have no other questions.

MS. TYAU: We do have his proposal...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Sorry?

MS. TYAU: We do have his proposal, it is one of them that's going to go before for the grant.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh okay. When is it going to go before commission?

MS. TYAU: Once we get the approval that we have the money to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh sorry, you just said that. I thought it was from this past fiscal year. Okay, thank you. Or this current fiscal year, not the new one. Shall do.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I just have two simple questions. How many licenses do we have and how much is each license?

MS. TYAU: We currently have 457 licenses. The cost of a liquor license is a basic fee and a percentage of their gross sales. So, basic fees range, you can have a retail beer only that's around 260, you can have a retail general that's 560, \$560. We have a dispenser general, restaurant general that runs \$600. Our wholesalers, manufacturers might be around \$2,400, so it varies. It's really minimal. The cost of their license, the most cost comes in the form of the percentage fee. This year it's 47 cents to every \$100 that they have made on the previous year they paid, .47 percent. With everything that's going on, should gross liquor sales gets reduced overall, that would be one factor that may rise the percentage. As I said previously, I've seen it as high as a \$1.02 for every \$100 that they make. So, depending on all the different factors that's what's going to determine the percentage and that would be the cost of their license.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Who sets those percentages and who sets the fee?

MS. TYAU: The basic fee is already in, is in ordinance, and the reason it's so small is because it creates a level playing field so if you make a lot of money, you'll pay the same percentage on your gross sales as if you made...if you made \$100 you'd pay on \$100. If you made \$10 you'd pay on \$10, that way everybody is paying their fair share. And this is the result of a settlement that happened back in the early '90s where we can only collect to our budget so that there's not extra Carryover that went into the General Fund per se. So now, that's why whatever excess we have goes back to the licensees in the form of the percentage. So, the percentage fee is we take our Council-approved budget, we minus out Carryover/Savings that apply for that year, we minus out the basic fees, and we divide it by estimated gross liquor sales that is reported for the previous fiscal and that's how we get a percentage.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: With the Covid-19 do you anticipate an increase or decrease in your revenue?

MS. TYAU: Our revenue is our basic fees and our percentage fee so whatever the Council allows...whatever the Council-adopted budget is we're going to collect. So, the basic fees are going to be the same because that hasn't changed. The percentage fee

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they...and like I said the other portion of revenue is very small, it's our fines, our sale of rulebooks, nothing that makes a real big difference in our overall budget.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you very much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay, my turn. Okay, Deputy Director, how many liquor control officers do you need for enforcement?

MS. TYAU: Well, right now we're operating with 7 so we do have 12 positions right now and the 3 are not funded there. But as of right now we've been operating with the seven.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, the two are vacant?

MS. TYAU: Three are vacant but it wasn't funded so it didn't go out for recruitment.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You said there's 12 LCO positions, 7...

MS. TYAU: In Enforcement.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right, in Enforcement. And seven are filled and three are not funded so three and seven equals ten so there's two other positions.

MS. TYAU: Yeah, one, yeah, hold on. One is on leave right now so I didn't count that one, but I guess we would have eight and then the other vacant position we have is part of our reorganization that's taking place. We're using that position to reallocate to an Account Clerk for Administrative Services, because back in 2018 when we had asked for an expansion position, the Council wanted people to use what they had. So right now, it's currently with the union in consultation to use that one vacant position the LC-0015, I forget what P number it is right now if you need it. But we're going to use that for another Account Clerk for the front office services, because with all of the changes and requirements and policy as far as handling money, we only...we need more coverage, we need at least one more person that can handle financial transactions. 'Cause what is happening is that in order to meet the requirements and stay in compliance, we only have two people so if one is out on vacation and the other one gets sick then we have to shut down financial transactions for the day. So, one...that vacant position right now is in the process of being reallocated through the reorganization process.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And how long has that person been on leave and what is the LC number?

MS. TYAU: I don't have that with me right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Has it been more than a year?

MS. TYAU: I can get back to you. What's that?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Has it been more than a year?

MS. TYAU: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The person has been on leave for more than a year. Okay. Okay. And so, there's only one enforcement officer that is on leave?

MS. TYAU: Yes. On the long-term leave, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And you don't have the LC number with you right now?

MS. TYAU: No.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And you don't have another liquor control officer that's been on leave for more than a year? More than --

MS. TYAU: No.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --five years?

MS. TYAU: Well, I don't know how long that one has been on leave. That is our long-term leave one. Yeah, I don't know --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have one position...

MS. TYAU: --long it's been. Yeah, I don't know how long that person has been on leave.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, more than five years, and...

MS. TYAU: No, I don't know, I would...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And that position continues to be funded?

MS. TYAU: So, we still have to pay them depending on what kind of leave it is.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I thought we do like a package when they go on leave for more than five years, like a severance kind of a package or some kind of work comp or...I mean we've done settlements like that. We've had Corp. Counsel come to us, propose some kind of a, you know, settlement if someone is going to be on leave for...I mean over five years.

MS. TYAU: No, like I said I don't know if they've been out for more than five years. I would need to get back to you on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. My time is up. Okay, Committee Vice-Chair King?

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to ask if since all the bars and restaurants are closed are the inspectors keeping busy and where do they...where are they out and about?

MS. TYAU: Well, they still need to do inspections. We've only had about 100 notifications of closures. Retail stores are still able...are still in operation and then whomever can do takeout food can still do takeout food and it just depends...so there are still licensed premises that are open.

VICE-CHAIR KING: And do they just go out and do inspection so they're not necessarily complaint driven, they just kind of go drive around and then inspect places? Do they have like schedules of where they're supposed to go?

MS. TYAU: It is complaint driven also. It's complaint driven also and then we also still get the Maui Police Department reports and we investigate any...all OUIs and so forth to see if liquor license premises are involved. So, we still do investigation. So, it's inspections on view and then complaints and then MPD reports.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I just wondered because I know the bars and restaurants are closed, but I had also heard that the liquor sales were up during this period so just wanted to see how that was affecting you.

MS. TYAU: I've heard that about retail which historically has shown at any given time of a down, it does rise in retail, but we won't know that until we collect our gross liquor sales reports.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. But your crew is staying pretty busy?

MS. TYAU: Yes.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had one question for the Director. Premium pay is estimated to be 87.2 percent more than the previous year. So, is this a staffing shortage issue? Can you explain that? On Page 327.

MS. TYAU: Yeah, there is no increase in premium pay, it's still at the 30,000. What is happening is that you're seeing the collective bargaining agreement increases, the salary adjustment that is being done by budget is being...you're seeing it as salaries and wages, but it's a different sub-object for salaries and wages. That's where you're seeing the increase. So...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Director, for that...

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MS. TYAU: Okay. I can break it down if you need me to.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sure, go ahead.

MS. TYAU: Okay. So, the 60,090, the 87.2 percent that you mentioned is due to salary adjustments which is 913012A-5250 made by the Budget Office for additional funding of 98,962 due to bargaining unit increases, and that is offset by the deletion of the one-time appropriation of 38,872 for the anticipated salary increases in this fiscal year. So, the 98,962 minus the 38,872, those were for salary adjustments which comes out to the 60,090 and that's the 87.2 percent. So, it's due solely to the salary adjustments for collective bargaining.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. Just following up on that request for the additional 50,000 for legal services, now, Director, you mentioned that you needed it for court reporting services as well as investigative services, because I just find it honestly an unusual request because we have Corporation Counsels. I don't know, is it because maybe you're asking this because Corporation Counsel is not doing enough for this Department when it relates to doing these types of investigations?

MS. TYAU: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Because I know you're talking about hiring a private investigator I assume right?

MS. TYAU: It would be an independent investigator should there be complaints from the public. Corporation Counsel doesn't do those types of investigations. So, we're not the only department that goes out and gets independent investigators, especially if it's complaints from the public and especially since we're a small Department. It just eliminates the idea or perception of biases in any of the outcomes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. But I'm thinking shouldn't Corporation Counsel have the final say, because, you know, we are the clients of Corporation Counsel so anytime we're dealing with, you know, legal matters, it should always go through them. So, that's why I question. And I happened to...I think the Liquor Commission met on this topic back in November of 2019, and I'm reviewing the minutes and there were two commissioners that had, you know, questioned this proposal and this came under former Director Mukai.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Still at work.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Sorry, I hear some interference in the background, Madam Chair. Anyway, continuing, I'm sorry, Madam Director. Yeah, I have the minutes, the November minutes and I think two...one commissioner had expressed concerns about it, another one said it could be setting precedent in terms of cost. So, anyway, I'm going to review the minutes and I'll share it with, Madam Chair, I'll share it with the Committee next week when it's decision making on this matter. The other question I had is in Budget Details, Page 9-5 regarding temporary assignment. There's an over 1,000 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2018 to 2019 for temporary assignment from 542 to 5,145. Can you explain that to us?

MS. TYAU: A temporary assignment is whenever you have someone acting in another position. That's our acting LCO IV here, so that would be considered a temporary assignment. But I also wanted to clarify the minutes of November was not talking about this investigative services, it was for another item that is not on the budget proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Well, I'll make that...I'll still review the minutes anyway. But yeah, and getting back to the temporary assignment, so is this for a person that's been out for some time and that's what you typically would use temporary assignment for? And if that person's been out for a prolonged period, wouldn't it be more feasible to do an LTA, limited-term appointment?

MS. TYAU: By collective bargaining agreement, we would, someone would become the acting, someone with seniority would become the acting in a position. Or even when someone goes out for like their annual vacation, if they're going to be out for like two weeks then you'll have an acting supervisor at that point. So, that would be in the form of the temporary assignment appointment.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. And then finally on Details under emergency callback, what circumstances would lead to an employee being called back? Because there was an increase in FY 2018 from 257 to 445 in 2019. I anticipate is that number going to increase for this fiscal year? And just basically what's the reason for employee callbacks?

MS. TYAU: We don't have callbacks right now that is happening. I would have to...what page are you on?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Budget Details 9-5 under index code 913012A.

MS. TYAU: Oh, the emergency callback, the 445?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, for Fiscal Year 2019 and it increased from 257 in 2018 to 445 in 2019.

MS. TYAU: Okay, I know...I don't know what those were for, but in 2020 the year that we're in, I don't believe we have callback.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right, thank you very much. And also to add to that request about the vehicles, could I have the total number of vehicles for both I guess Administration and Enforcement as well included in that request, Madam Director? It'd be much appreciated.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing. Deputy Director, did you say yes to Member Molina's last question?

MS. TYAU: Yes, but I can also just tell him what the number is if he wants but if you want it in writing that's fine.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, Madam Chair, in writing for the entire Department please.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Okay, Member Molina and then Member Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I have no questions. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I was wondering if you could...I haven't read that Chapter 281, if you could tell me is that like a Hawai'i Revised Statutes?

MS. TYAU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And because I never read 'em yet, I was wondering if you could tell me, you know, how there's that education revolving fund side, is there a way to use revenue collected for alcohol addiction, like to help fund Aloha House and those programs that help folks that have problems because of the drinking of alcohol?

MS. TYAU: Well, we cannot. Because we're solely funded by liquor license fees, liquor license monies can only be used for our Department's operations and salaries. So, this question has come up for the past 20 years, and the answer is no, we cannot do that, we cannot use our people under the Liquor Fund. So, what is happening is back in around 2010, the Liquor Education Fund State law changed. The Liquor Education Fund is a revolving fund that is comprised of fine monies. So, it's not monies that we collect once we get our budget. We're just here to ask to use that money, it's already there, the fine money. But what it is, is that back in 2010, they made an allowance where we can now use it for some kind of public education. So, we cannot be involved

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in and that's why it's the form of us giving grant money. But as far as just directly funding, we wouldn't be able to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. So, you can't help the guys that are addicted to alcohol, you can only educate folks to prevent them from becoming addicted to alcohol in the future or not driving under alcohol and that kind of stuff?

MS. TYAU: And we wouldn't be able to do anything. People come with their proposals and then we decide on how to...the commission will decide on who gets the grant money. So, this just started. Previously you couldn't even use those funds to educate or give out that way, it had to stay within the Department or the commission or the board.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thanks. So, possibly can change State law with that Chapter 281 and then tell them give it to Aloha House or something, possible?

MS. TYAU: I think previous Council had tried but once...as long as we comply with State law.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Right on, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No questions. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay. I think I have two more questions. Okay, first question is if the Liquor Control collects over the amount needed to fund everything and there's like Carryover/Savings, how is that Carryover/Savings redistributed?

MS. TYAU: Number one, we don't collect over our Council-approved budget, we collect exactly to the penny. So, what is happening is like I said we take our Council-approved budget, there's a formula, we take our Council-approved budget, we minus out the basic fees that they pay during --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. TYAU: --renewal that gets applied...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What I mean is if you don't fill the positions, then there would be a Carryover/Savings right? If you don't purchase an equipment or if you don't pay the wages that was allocated by the Council, there would end up being unspent or unused funds. What happens with those unused funds?

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MS. TYAU: So, that is what I was explaining. It's part of the percentage fee calculation. We take our Council-approved budget, we minus out the basic fees, and whatever is the fund balance, the unencumbered fund balance from Finance that we get once it's audited in August, a percentage of that goes back to the licensees in the form of this formula reducing the percentage. So, we have the Council-approved budget, we minus out basic fees that gets paid for their licensees, we minus out that Carryover/Savings, and we divide it by estimated gross sales and that's how we get this percentage. We get an actual percentage that the licensees will pay on their gross sales. So in the end, basic fees, Carryover/Savings, and the percentage fee makes up our total budget. That's our revenue that we get. Right there is our total budget.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, that percentage is redistributed back to the licensees? It's minus'd out from...

MS. TYAU: Yes...well, the cost of the liquor license is the basic fee and the percentage of their gross liquor sales. So, the Carryover/Savings would be a factor that reduces the percentage.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And that just happens once at the end of the year?

MS. TYAU: Well, we only have to do it once, 'cause we only have our Council-approved budget to collect for and that's the one time that we do it. So, when we're in that fiscal year, come July 1st, the money that we collect through percentage fees in September/October, that is to run the fiscal year that we're in. We're collecting that money for the fiscal year that we're in, because we're not going to get money from the General Fund. So, whatever we're in, we're going to collect exactly to our Council-approved budget, no more.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then my last question is it's my understanding that the Liquor Commission still hasn't scheduled the audit for review. Is that a correct understanding?

MS. TYAU: The audit was back in 2018 I believe so I'm not exactly sure what...I'm not exactly sure of your question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Has the commission scheduled the audit for its review?

MS. TYAU: I would have to check because I wasn't in this position to tell you that. I would assume they did, but I can go and check if you need me to.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay 'cause I was told they didn't. And I see heads shaking. Member Molina and Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. To my knowledge I believe that audit was completed in late 2018, the previous Council term, and from that time on, I don't believe the commission has even addressed the whole audit. Now, I believe the Department did address some of the concerns, but as far as the commission

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having a review, to my knowledge they haven't. And I think Member Sugimura can add to that as well. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Member Sugimura? You're on mute.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, I got it. So, you know, all the people who are in Liquor are well involved and has been there for many years and this audit was done, nothing was taken up. I tried to ask the previous Director, never got anywhere. So, you know, even if they were not the Director or whatever, I think that they were heavily involved with the Department so I beg to differ that, you know, it didn't come up, so.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm still waiting. I'm still waiting.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And mahalo for putting forward the request to do that audit. I understand that was something that you had put forward. Okay. And my time is up. Okay. Okay, Members, any last comments or questions? We don't have any proposed priorities for this Department. So, we'll allow Deputy Director to make closing remarks and then we'll thank the Department for coming.

MS. TYAU: Just thank you for your time.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members, one last thing before we adjourn for the night. We have Mayor Victorino who requested to provide an important announcement. Mayor Victorino?

MAYOR VICTORINO: Good evening.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good evening.

MAYOR VICTORINO: . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Councilmembers, for working so late.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Good evening.

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MAYOR VICTORINO: And I appreciate everything you guys are doing. I wanted to announce because it's already out as a press release and the news media from O`ahu is calling so before I spoke to them, I wanted to try to get it to you folks. But it's running things on a concurrent basis is sometimes very difficult and I apologize. Let me start with couple quick items and then we'll move on to this announcement. First of all, food distribution today both in South Maui and Central Maui went real well, and we're looking to do West Maui and some other locations in the very near future. People are very thankful and I want to thank you for allowing us, I want to thank all the various vendors that were helpful and arranging this between VIP and others. And I will have a press release on that tomorrow. Also, testing at the Keolu Park went very successfully. It had some glitches and there's some challenges and I apologize where mistakes were made. Any time you try something new, things do go wrong and I take the responsibility. Any complaints you can say the Mayor apologizes because he tried to meet every aspect, and some things were not met the way I had hoped it would be. However, we did almost 700 tests today on the Central Maui testing and as well as a great number of our first responders and medical staff from Maui Memorial and other medical facilities throughout the Central Maui. And so, I'm very thankful for that. And I will warn everyone that because of the large number of testing, Molokai, here, tomorrow, Hana and Central Maui again, next week West Maui, I expect to find an uptick in numbers, because the more you test, the more you find, and I think this is what my whole premise is, if we can identify any clusters or any problems, we will help to eliminate or to prevent it from spreading any further. But this...why I told you this, I wanted to correlate something else that I decided to do, and after many days of thinking and consultation with the other mayors, Kirk Caldwell and I have decided to do a test pilot, they're doing it in O`ahu what we're going to do here on Maui with a curfew from 11:00 p.m. Friday night, April 10th to Sunday...Monday morning 5:00 a.m. So, the curfew will run from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. both Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This is a test, we're not doing this forever, just this weekend. Because of the long weekend it was decided to try and see how it works out for the people of Maui County. We want them to understand that this is one way we can have better control on people on the roadways. This does cover people returning from work, people who have essential businesses, medical emergencies, all of that is covered in the press release that all of you have received. And so, but this includes all vehicles and other wheeled means of transportation. In other words, our buses will close at 11:00, but they close at 11:00 anyhow so that kind of works out real well. And most of them don't open up until 5:00 or 5:30 a.m. anyhow so there's no real changes in our bus system and our bus schedule. These are important. There's some other things or other items here listed in this announcement, and again these are areas that I did talk about today at our press conference so people are knowingly, know this is coming. And so, and one more thing that hasn't been discussed, but bed and breakfast and short-term homes may not...only operate by providing housing for essential workers as stated in Rule 13, and they will not be allowed to take any visitors from this point forward. So in essence, I've shut down any visitors coming to short-term rental homes or B&B breakfast homes. So, I hope that will help relieve some of the pressure as well as visitors. Just today, we had 15 or yesterday, we had 15 visitors come and the vast majority were timeshare and long-term returnees that come in and use their condos for, you know, three or four months. And so, we're monitoring this very closely, and

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I've told the people at the airport and MVB who have done a great job in catching people before they get off the plane. I believe I was told one more was returned yesterday. I think we have a total of three non-permitted visitors just coming to Maui that were turned around and sent back, and we are watching very carefully. The vast majority of all our passengers are between returning residents...and, you know, there's been this question about intended or intended residents, these are people that have bought homes or bought businesses or starting...or who have started a business or changing jobs, that's what falls under intended residents. And in Honolulu of course that includes the military and others who move in and out as far as our military staff are concerned. If you want further questions in this area, please feel free to e-mail me. I will give you the list, as what intended residents mean, and we had I think three yesterday and none today. So again, not a great number but I can tell you our visitor count has dropped drastically. Of the seven days that we've had reported, only two out of the seven days had double digits. In fact, there were two days that had three visitors and another day had five visitors coming to Maui County, total count. And everything else seems to be working well and we will continue to work on the testing. I know we are the highest and we are working on the situation with the hospital. I think I have commitments from everyone to work hand in hand to make sure that the problems that existed will not exist any further. There's not a perfect system, there's still challenges, and I'm meeting them as I see them as they come about. We're trying to meet them before there, but if they see 'em after, I put something out, we meet that challenge. Ladies and gentlemen, I know you're tired, it's been a long day for you. I've been here since 6:00 a.m., that's the job I chose and a job I enjoy. God bless you all. Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me this time to make these announcements and hopefully this updates you all. And thank you for all your hard work. Really, really truly appreciate it, myself, my family, and the people of Maui County. And if I don't see all of you, Happy Easter, Happy Good Friday, stay safe. Let's not congregate, let's not have the regular celebrations we have. Let's make sure we do distance, social distancing. Wear your masks, I have mine. I'm putting it back on because every time I finish reading, I can put it back on. Aloha and God bless you all.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Mayor. Just to let you know that the Council Staff will be hosting the testing team tomorrow in Hana so we appreciate all your help with that. And then we did have a driver, if you do have produce to drive out to East Maui, we do have a potential driver to bring out any produce to the East Side. So again, mahalo and Happy Easter, everybody.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You too. Thank you, Mayor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Happy Easter.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Happy Easter.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thanks, Mayor.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are those your keiki, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Happy Easter. Mahalo. Thank you. We really needed that shut down.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I just, I heard keiki.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's not even Easter yet.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Mahalo, Mayor Victorino. Mahalo, Budget Director Yoshimura.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members, it's 8:03. I thought today went pretty well. Any feedback?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good job, Chairman.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We're going to use that process again on...so tomorrow you'll have a holiday.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And Saturday and Sunday.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What? No. Okay, I guess. So on Monday, we'll come back and we'll do the same process. Monday we have Department of Parks and Rec, Department of Personnel, and then Department of Planning. I don't think there's grants in any of those departments so likely not too many testifiers, but we'll follow the same process that we used today with the round, two rounds of five minutes, no reading the questions, and we've already requested the written questions in response. We've transmitted the questions and requested responses in writing from the departments. Okay. Any questions or comments before we go? Bye, Michele. Okay, Members, enjoy your long weekend, you've deserved it...you've earned it for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You too, Madam Chair, you too.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Mahalo. Thank you for your hard work, everybody. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Happy Easter.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good night, everyone. Bye.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Happy Easter.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good night.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Be safe, everybody. And wear your mask.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And remember the curfew.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Remember the curfew.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Mask and curfew.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank the public for coming out to testify. Okay. The Economic Development...it's 8:05 on April 9th and the Economic Development and Budget Committee is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED:



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

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

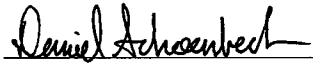
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CERTIFICATE

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, 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 27th day of April, 2020, in Kula, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck