

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

## MINUTES

April 15, 2020

### Online Only via BlueJeans Link

**CONVENE:** 9:09 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair  
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Vice-Chair (out 10:03 a.m.; in 10:13 a.m.)  
Councilmember Riki Hokama, Member  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

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

**ADMIN.:** Michele Y. Yoshimura, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Wendy Nathan, Budget Specialist V, Budget Office, Office of the Mayor  
Marc Iwao Takamori, Director, Department of Transportation  
Michael Blake Du Pont, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation  
Jeffrey Pearson, Director, Department of Water Supply  
Helene Kau, Deputy Director, Department of Water Supply  
Holly Ho, Waterworks Fiscal Officer, Department of Water Supply  
Eva Blumenstein, Planning Program Manager, Department of Water Supply  
Wendy Taomoto, Engineering Program Manager, Department of Water Supply  
Mimi Desjardins, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Chris Brosius, Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership  
Stephen Cabral, Cabrals Ranch LLC  
Terese Masters, Common Ground Collective

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

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: ...*(gavel)*... Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please come to order. Aloha kakahiaka kakou. It is 9:09 on April 15<sup>th</sup>. A reminder for everyone to please silence your cell phones and we'll begin with introductions. I'm Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, I'm the Chair of the Economic

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Development and Budget Committee. And we have with us this morning, Committee Vice-Chair Kelly King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Good morning, everybody. Aloha and --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --from beautiful Northern Kihei.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, everybody, from Hāna.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. Member Mike Molina. Oh. You're muted.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh. Here I am okay. Sorry. Good morning and aloha kakahiaka to you, Madam Chair and my colleagues and to the public, from the wonderful, awesome slopes of Makawao.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning. In Samoa we say talofa. So, greetings from Wailuku from myself and my two cats Mary and Mano.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Talofa to you, Mary and Mano.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Riki Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Just aloha, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Member Hokama. Member Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Trying out a new stand-up workstation so, kinda stoked.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Cool. Nice. Aloha. Member Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning from Haleakalā, Maui. Nice to see all of you this morning.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, from sunny Kahului.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka from sunny Moloka'i. Everyone always...I always forget to say where I am. I'm on beautiful Moloka'i it's a beautiful day. We have Corporation...from Corporation Counsel, Deputy Corporation Counsel Mimi Desjardins. Aloha.

MS. DESJARDINS: Good morning, everybody.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. And we have already joining us Director of Department of Transportation Marc Takamori and Deputy Director Michael Du Pont. Oh. You're on mute. Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: Hello, everybody.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Aloha. Now you're unmuted.

MR. TAKAMORI: Oh. Okay. Good morning.

MR. DU PONT: Good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning.

MR. TAKAMORI: Good. We're here now.

MR. DU PONT: We're gonna get it.

MR. TAKAMORI: We got it. We got it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for joining us. And I think I see Wendy in the back. Aloha kakahiaka.

MS. NATHAN: Good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Representing the Office of the Mayor, Budget Office. And then later we'll have Department of Water Supply, and we also have monitoring the meeting our Committee Staff, our hardworking Committee Staff. Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier, Legislative Analysts Shelly Espeleta, Chester Carson, Lesley Milner and Kasie Apo Takayama. Okay. We have one item on today's agenda. EDB-1 Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the County of Maui. We'll begin with public testimony, oral testimony via phone or teleconference will be accepted from Maui County residents. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans meeting link [bluejeans.com/597785199](https://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](mailto: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

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last name, if you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist please inform the Committee. I will...posted already by Staff is the testifiers' log in the chat so, that testifiers will be able to see where they are on the list. Mahalo, Ms. Milner. Please be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting, chat should be limited to the Committee's review of FY '21 Budget and should not be used to provide testimony or chat with other testifiers. Mahalo. If providing testimony please be courteous of others by muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Participant 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](http://mauicounty.us/agendas) to access live and archived meeting videos. For a click here link to BlueJeans meeting and for up-to-date information on the budget please visit [www.mauicounty.us/2021budget](http://www.mauicounty.us/2021budget). And then I'll remind Committee Members, the Administration and the public to please be patient with us as we continue to navigate this new platform. So, we'll proceed with oral testimony, Staff has been monitoring those joining today's meeting by phone and by video and we'll do our best to take everyone up and orderly fashion. So, far we have two people signed up to testify, we'll start with Chris Brosius from Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership followed by Stephen Cabral from Cabrals Ranch LLC. If you'll please unmute yourself, Chris Brosius. And you can correct how I pronounced your last I'm sure.

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

MR. BROSIUS: Thank you very much. Good morning. Can you see and hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. BROSIUS: Okay. Thank you very much. My name is Chris Brosius I'm with the Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership. And I am here to testify and thank you, Councilmembers, for your support. This is a novel format, it's great to see all your bright and shining faces, and thank you for providing that opportunity to the community at such a critical time. I guess I'm here to say that Mauna Kahalawai is supported through County funding, it does provide the backbone of our support. I had heard recently that there may be some significant cuts to County funding and I just wanted to speak to that potentially 5 percent to FY '20 base levels. That would be a significant cut for our programs not only because it's just 5 percent but it is on top of, you know, increasing costs and difficulty in doing business as efficiently as possible in the COVID era. And in addition to that we had a recommendation for up to...for additional funds in FY '21. We were slated to get \$600,000 our FY '20 budget is \$480,000 and then if we're cut 5 percent on that it would be \$465,000. All I wanted to impress upon you folks is that the reason for the increase to the FY '21 levels was to deal with a particular invasive weed problem that we are experiencing at Mauna Kahalawai and that is Himalayan ginger. So, the increase in funding would allow us to deal with this insipient population or new population that is just getting started in the West Maui Mountains. And if we don't maintain funding levels then we will have difficulty engaging that problem and therefore the cost of resolving that problem in future may increase dramatically. Obviously, this all comes within the context of

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economic downturn and having to make hard decisions. I just wanted to relay the fact that if we don't get started early on addressing this problem then I'm going to have to ask for more support later and of course we will do our best to be as creative as possible with other funding sources. In that light I know that we...oh is that my alarm? Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. BROSIUS: So, just to wrap up there's State cuts and cuts across all sectors so, you know, just trying to stay strong with County funding is important and just letting you know that we are considered an essential service for watershed protection under the Governor's exemptions and we are continuing to do the best we can under the circumstances. So, I'll just leave it there and thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Brosius. Okay, Members, questions for our testifier? Member Paltin and then Committee Vice-Chair King and then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just want to keep it brief, wondering are you are fully staffed right now?

MR. BROSIUS: Yes, we are fully staffed. We have 12 persons on board with one additional AmeriCorps intern.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair...thank you for being here, Mr. Brosius. So, when you're talking about the critical funding are you talking about...I mean can you go back to the levels that you were in this current year or do you feel like the increase that you asked for is hugely critical?

MR. BROSIUS: You know, we'll do what we have to do of course is the answer. But, I...the increase in funding that would have taken place in FY '21 was meant to deal specifically with the critical funding need of addressing the Himalayan ginger infestation. So...

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I guess my question is, do you feel like...someone's got background going...do you feel like we would be going backwards if we don't do the increase? I guess is my question.

MR. BROSIUS: Yes. That is the short answer, yes. We will try to reallocate whatever resources remain to the greatest good for the watershed of course. But it's hard to get started on a new project without new seed money.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning. This is the first I've heard of the Himalayan ginger so part of the reason why you need additional funds is to combat this new invasive species?

MR. BROSIUS: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How much of a threat is it?

MR. BROSIUS: Well, worldwide it's considered one of the most invasive species that there are, and let's see, currently on East Maui it is a widespread weed. It is also commonly a threat on other islands. Fortunately, through our monitoring in West Maui we've been able to detect this while it is relatively small. And we think we can get ahead of the problem before it becomes out of control. It is going to be a challenge nonetheless, but right now we are identifying it as a 15-acre problem. In East Maui it covers thousands of acres in terms of range and it, basically once it starts growing to paint a picture it forms a blanket in the understory and doesn't allow anything else to grow. Even, you know, the larger `ōhi`a trees for example that might already be in place prior to the invasion, they are usually the only things left and then when they succumb there's no keiki understory to succeed and come up as native forest again. So, it's a pretty bad problem.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What do you use to eradicate this invasive species in particular?

MR. BROSIUS: Okay. We can use both manual, mechanical hand methods and we apply an herbicide called Escort and it is applied directly to the rhizome of the plant. It's not something that is a broadcast herbicide, it is very precisely placed specifically on each cut individual stem.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, if you were to get your wish, you know, wish list from the budget how much more do you...what is the total that you actually need?

MR. BROSIUS: The increase above FY '20 levels is \$120,000 and we were going to dedicate those funds directly toward that project.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So...

MR. BROSIUS: That would be for one year. We would then see, hopefully see that our group would be on top of the problem and the funding request would decrease thereafter. But that's our initial request.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, one last question. So, you received 480,000 previously, you were --

MR. BROSIUS: Yes, in FY '20.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: --then slated...okay...and then slated to receive 465 in this budget, upcoming budget. So, if you got what you needed you'd need a total of 600,000?

MR. BROSIUS: I believe that's mostly correct. I was, I was mentioning the 465,000 I believe is the number we would get if the 5 percent reductions were implemented at FY '20 levels.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. BROSIUS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Sugimura, are you stretching or do you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I have question. Just...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Page 597 in the program booklet has all of the watershed projects and the 600,000 is a fiscal year proposed amount, adopted 2020 was 480,000 he's explained the 5 percent cut thing. But any way that has a list of everybody in case we hear more. Thank you. Thanks for coming, Chris.

MR. BROSIUS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo to our Water Committee Chair. Okay. And so, I just have two quick questions. I think you kind of answered it with Chair Lee. But so, with this additional funding do you think you would eliminate the problem?

MR. BROSIUS: That level of funding would allow us to get basically...hopefully full treatment for one-year. There is like a three-year treatment cycle that we anticipate. So, maybe in the following year...sorry my dog is whining in the background...in the following year it will hopefully be less effort and then still less in year three. Ideally zeroed out in year four. But as you know the nature of invasive species we're going to give it our best shot and hopefully get a good impact in year one and take it from there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that additional information. And then really quickly for those watching and for those who may not understand how watersheds work, the difference between Himalayan ginger helping to recharge the aquifer versus an `ōhi`a tree.

MR. BROSIUS: Oh. Thank you for that question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Like a couple sentences.

MR. BROSIUS: Yeah. Simply put ginger in the understory simplifies the complexity of the forest many times over and the `ōhi`a forest is highly more diverse and more complex

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and its canopy structure is much more capable of collecting, filtering, and helping rainwater to infiltrate into our aquifers. So, also if you have a monotypic or single species forest like ginger you are basically...you have no biodiversity and then your watershed becomes very susceptible to things that may affect only a single species. So, if...in other words the simpler your forest is the less genetic diversity it has the less resilience it has and we could be subject to bigger issues if we allow it to spread.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Brosius, for your testimony today.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Member Hokama? Oh, Member Sinenci? Member Hokama and then Member Sinenci. Sorry I don't know who had their hand up first.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Real quickly I would ask for all those that are gonna be giving us comments regarding the watershed funding, Chair, I really like each agency to give us their game plan. I appreciate this gentleman saying, you know, he had a four-year game plan and what he plans to do in each year so I can connect the money, the dollars requested to the performance. And I like that, instead of every...just telling me I need more money, more money. One thing I know just throwing money doesn't solve the answer [sic] many times so I would appreciate and as the gentlemen did earlier all the other potential grantees give us some kind of game plan on achieving some kind of victory over the invasive species. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. I agree. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I agree with Mr. Hokama as well. I too feel like being out in the environment is one way that we can continue with some jobs because they're practicing social distancing of course but I did want to tell Mr. Brosius the 5 percent cuts was department-wide. But I appreciate, you know, the individual applicants coming in and giving where they could potentially maybe defer some things as we're going through the budget and being fiscally responsible for this particular budget. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm muted. Okay here we go. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Seeing no other hands rising to ask Mr. Brosius a question we'll thank him for his testimony today. And for the additional information if Mauna Kahalawai would be able to provide the Committee, the game plan that Member Hokama had asked for.

MR. BROSIUS: Certainly.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Mahalo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I want to . . . *(inaudible)*. . . because I want us to...it's just a couple of steps we could do to make a big difference



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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Who's that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Muted. Okay. Next testifier is Stephen Cabral from Cabrals Ranch LLC followed by Terese Masters from Common Ground Collective. Mr. Cabral?

MR. CABRAL: Yeah. Hello. First confirmation, can everybody hear me just fine?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes.

MR. CABRAL: Okay. Cool. Yeah. So, thank you for letting me speak, Council. I'm really digging this tech, tech aspect to how you guys are doing your meetings now. So, yeah I'm one of the few ranchers who like really embraces like technology and these new ways so yeah like I said I really appreciate how you guys are respecting the virus for what it is, it's a dangerous thing. So, okay. I am a co-operator of one of the soil and water conservation districts in Maui and receive conservation planning assistance for my ranch in 2016 to present. I'm a third-generation rancher, my grandpa Stephen Cabral model as a co-operator and watershed steward while manning his post as the head of East Maui Irrigation for 50-plus years. I have a day job as well as two young children at home. The conservation specialists I work with have informed of and allowed me to take advantage of funding opportunities to take on what was a fenceless 1,000-acre parcel four years ago and up-to-date I have completed approximately 300 acres of professionally, certified fencing and scrupulous invasive species management. Quantifiably the results have been less car accidents leading to unnecessary, costly insurance claims from cows roaming onto Hāna Highway, more efficient herd management, and more grass available and keeping cows satisfied in each paddock. I also capture wild cows out of the Koʻolau Forest Reserve and add them to my herds by engineering my own one-way gate systems. Very dangerous job all around, running a ranch is expensive, building a ranch from scratch is insurmountable, but managing a ranch while continuing to build and expand to become employer capable is only possible with the assistance I receive from the men and women you are looking to continue to fund in this meeting session. Thank you, that's all.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Cabral. Members, any need for clarification of Mr. Cabral's testimony? Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Hi, Stephen.

MR. CABRAL: Hello.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you for all the work you do to protect our watershed. Which group are you supporting? Exactly which?

MR. CABRAL: Soil and water.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What is your...soil and water...

MR. CABRAL: Oh, I...yeah. Soil and water conservation. Yeah, soil and water.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank Mr. Cabral for his testimony today. Mahalo for joining us, I'm glad you were able to get on easy. Have a great day.

MR. CABRAL: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Our last testifier for today is Terese Masters from Common Ground Collective.

MS. MASTERS: Hi, good morning, Councilmembers. Thank you for this opportunity and the new platform to provide testimony. As a co-founder and board member of Common Ground Collective I'd like to submit testimony in favor of your support of our community services. Aside from the hard work we've put in, in the last three-years and the harvest data to prove our commitment to our community with the goal of establishing food security we also collaborate with other organizations that benefit from our support. For instance, CGC hosts or participates in volunteer workdays to support local farmers or school gardens with extra hands for harvest or clearing of growing beds and fields. CGC works with non-profits like Maui Food Bank, Chilis on Wheels, Make Food Not Bombs, Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center just to name a few to receive produce donations from our free harvesting services that we offer. This backyard produce would otherwise go unpicked and sadly not make it into our community. Recently we have been called on by other ag sector organizations looking for advice and assistance. Currently, CGC is part of a larger team that includes: Grow Some Good, Beyond Pesticides and HFUU to establish food networks and hubs around the island to support our farmers, our ranchers, fishermen and added-value product makers to get their food in the form of CSA boxes out into our local community. CGC is also set up to do garden installations. With an additional \$70,000 in funding from the County along with the \$30,000 request for our harvest services we could increase our efforts in supporting our community. And I can provide a breakdown of our foster farm project goals and cost and materials and workforce in my e-mailed written testimony. Common Ground Collective is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit who is worthy of support based on the connections we've made and the over 6,000 pounds of food we've already collected and gotten into the community over the years. There's always more food to harvest and more bellies to fill and I'll say it again we are committed to feeding our community and establishing island food security. Please support us so we can continue to support our neighbors and our community connections and our island. Mahalo for your consideration.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Masters. Okay, Members...Member Paltin, question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thank you, Chair. I just had a question on how you would decide which members of our community would get the garden beds?

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MS. MASTERS: Well, currently we have a sign-up list of supporters that we started from when we began so we would start there and move down the list making those connections and then we would offer it to the community and then based on first come first serve.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there any minimum qualifications to be on the list? Or is, does anyone, can anyone be on the list?

MS. MASTERS: Anyone can request our services and we, and then we would go out and do a site inspection and talk with them and discuss with them what it is they're looking for and decide what is applicable to their situation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And just wondering is that when you say anyone do you mean Countywide or is it limited to Maui and not Hāna and Napili or just double checking?

MS. MASTERS: Well we would like to offer our services island-wide. And in the future be able to expand on the program or even the outline of the program to Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi. But currently we can only offer it to the island of Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The whole island?

MS. MASTERS: Yes. That would be the goal.

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

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh. Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I think Kelly was before me, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King followed by Pro Temp Kama and then Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks, Tasha. Aloha, Ms. Masters, and congratulations for...I was at, I think I was at your graduation from the FAM program so it's great to see you putting --

MS. MASTERS: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --education into action and following on your, following up on your proposals. I did meet with some of the Common Ground Collective, I think I met with Ananda before the Budget Session started and she said you were focused as far as the collections on Pāʻia, Haʻiku and some Kula areas. So, I just wanted to ask if you were coordinating with anybody else to, for the collection of, you know, the fruits and vegetables that are falling off people's trees in other areas. Is there someone else doing it in the other areas or if you...

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MS. MASTERS: To be honest not that I'm aware of any non-profits. I have seen, you know, Facebook posts on other farmers or people saying hey if you've got fruit contact me and I'll come and collect it.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh.

MS. MASTERS: But nothing organized that I'm aware of in the other areas.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. 'Cause there used to be one called Waste Not and then they don't do it anymore. I know I used them one time. But...

MS. MASTERS: Right. Yeah. I heard of this yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: There's nobody coming to Kihei but I think that's really great what you guys are doing and I just hope as far as the backyard, the garden beds that you can coordinate --

MS. MASTERS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: -- with the other groups like Food Security Hawai'i for our, you know, geographically so we can maybe cover more of the island between all the different groups doing it 'cause I just think we can't have too many backyard gardens.

MS. MASTERS: Absolutely. No, everyone should have a backyard garden for sure.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, anyway thank you for what you're doing and I just really am happy to see the graduates getting out into real world of entrepreneurialism.

MS. MASTERS: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Pro Temp Kama followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Good morning and thank you for being here. I mean it's very exciting to hear the work that you're doing, I think it's really ambitious and I know it's a lot of hard work even if we're just doing it in, in just a small geographical location. So, my question is how many people do you have helping you to do this? And how many individuals have you served so far in the three years that you've been doing this? And do you have a sense of what it's cost you to be able to provide the service that you've been doing for the past couple of years?

MS. MASTERS: So, we have one person on our payroll and she does the harvesting once a week. She's scheduled to do harvesting once a week. And we hope to hire more. We operate on grants and donations only. So, unfortunately the last few years we've operated on only \$10,000 in the last 2 years each. And so, going forward depending on how much funding we actually can receive will determine how many more people we can hire. There's this consideration, you know, we want to be able to hire a crew

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and have at least a handful if not a dozen of workers out there harvesting and installing gardens but based on how much money we receive will determine that especially when you're considering well there's...can we afford to offer medical insurance or not. So, that limits the amount of hours that each worker can do each week. So, there's a lot of variables up in the air and until...and we're continuing to grant write and request for funding from other organizations, not just the County. So, until we can understand how much money will come in for the projects we will know, be able to know how much money we can put out for those projects. And we've got a very basic baseline of like garden installation outline, the small cost to put in 32 cubic feet of including materials and our workforce. So, I wish I could give you a solid number, but because of all the different variables I'm sorry that I can't.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. That's good enough. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama.

MS. MASTERS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci and then, Chair Lee, did you have your hand up? Okay and then Member Sugimura. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Ms. Masters, for your testimony today. We did receive testimony from Ms. Bowman earlier in the week and so our office is proposing to help you fund I believe it's the \$30,000 portion of your gardening services. And so, my question is your you have another section of your operation, can you explain the increase?

MS. MASTERS: Absolutely. So, I'm sorry if I...I need to correct you. That initial request of \$30,000 is going towards our harvesting service. The additional request would go towards the garden installation portion. So, we have this large program that we have created called the foster farm project and in it we have basically three steps, we have installation, we have maintenance and we have harvest.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. MASTERS: It takes...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Can you, Ms. Masters, --

MS. MASTERS: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: --can you I mean we...she did send I don't know if the other Members got the budget proposal from Common Ground Collective. Is it possible to send it to us with that breakdown?

MS. MASTERS: Yes, absolutely.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Chair, can she just send it to the Committee or the EDB Committee?

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

MS. MASTERS: Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That was my question about the funding and how it was broken down. Where are you in, I'm looking in the budget, I don't see Common Ground Collective listed. So, are you part of another organization for a grant?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. I believe they're not in the Mayor's proposed budget. Member Sinenci has Common Ground Collective as a priority proposal. And he presented that --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --under OED.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Any further questions for Ms. Masters? Okay. Seeing none, one quick question for myself. In the...so, I'll look forward to seeing the plan e-mailed to edb.committee@mauicounty.us. In it does it have a sustainability piece? For funding sustainability? And if not will you please be sure to include that because I think that's an important component of the program.

MS. MASTERS: Absolutely. And if I could clarify sustainability as in like business aspect, business growth sustainable or like sustainability, environmental sustainability that includes...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Financial sustainability.

MS. MASTERS: Okay. Yes. It does.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MS. MASTERS: I will, it'll be in the e-mail for sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Yeah. So, our County has said that it prioritizes food security and I think, you know, investing in organizations that provide food security is important. So, mahalo for your work.

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MS. MASTERS: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for testifying today.

MS. MASTERS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. Ms. Masters was our last testifier for today. So, if there are no...sorry I'll do a last call for anyone signed on who would like to testify. Please unmute yourself now and proceed with your testimony. Okay hearing no one starting to speak, if there are no objections I will close public oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Oral testimony is now closed and I will read the short list of written testimony that we have. It's not too long today. This is a list from written testimony we received on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> as of 7:30 a.m. Three testimony regarding Maui Economic Development Board: 1 Sienna Racoma, 2 Maryann Linley, 3 Maureen Bacon. One regarding Taxes from Russell Taft. One testimony regarding Ma`alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed from Lyndon and Jancye Ibele. Six testimony regarding Pā`ia Youth and Cultural Center: 1 Nicole Hight, 2 Rohan Fahland, 3 Alison Fahland, 4 Sutton Healy, 5 Michael Baskin and Family and 6 Jennifer Phelps. Five testimony regarding Maui Nui Marine Resource Council: 1 Ed Alohi, 2 Lisa Berg, 3 MJ Durrand, 4 Carol and Ron Riccio, 5 Bradley and Catherine Tieva. One testimony regarding Maui Family Farmer Training Network from Char O'Brien. One testimony regarding Maui Nui Botanical Gardens from Irene Newhouse. One testimony regarding Maui Soil and Water Conservation Districts from Raymond McGorry. And one testimony regarding Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows from Logan McBarnet. Okay. Any objections to receiving the written testimony as read?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members.

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

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll proceed with our one item on the agenda, EDB-1 Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the County of Maui. We are on the final day of department reviews. Yay. Give yourself a pat on the back, good job, Members. Continuing with the Department of Transportation and Department of Water Supply. We'll receive responses from our individual inquiries for those departments as well as introduce and seek comments from the departments on your priority proposals. So, I'm hoping that we will be able to get through both Department of Transportation and Department of Water Supply before noon or at least 12:30 and we'll just go straight

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through until we're pau. Oh. I mean we can take a quick morning break as well, but we'll just, you know, we won't take a lunch and we'll just complete the two departments and then when we're pau we'll adjourn the meeting. Okay. Any objections to that plan?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, that's a good plan. I like the plan.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Okay. We have Department of Transportation with us and I will turn on their video and unmute them. Okay. All set. Okay. We have Director Marc Takamori and Deputy Director Michael Du Pont. Director, if you would like to provide us some opening remarks to start and then all Members will have two rounds of questions, five minutes each. Director Takamori?

MR. TAKAMORI: Hi. Good morning. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Mahalo.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Great. Good morning, Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Committee Members. Thank you for having us this morning. I guess just getting straight into it. Our Department priorities are to make certain that our transit hub continues to move forward and gets built. So, please support all funding requests for this project as we're expecting to be relocating to the new hub by August of 2021 from Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center. They have allowed us to extend our license to occupy for a dollar per year until we relocate. As you are aware with the current climate we were asked to provide recommendations on reducing our budget by 5 percent. As transportation is an essential service and lifeline to many we are still continuing to provide transportation services at this time. We have reduced services on our Maui Bus fixed route and commuter service and we have also seen reduced ridership on our human services transportation program and our Maui Bus paratransit service as many are staying at home per Mayor Victorino's public health emergency rules. So, once the community is allowed to start reopening or get out we're expecting services to return back to normal, relatively normal. We will continue to monitor our services and adjust where needed. So, as the Department's budget is made up of contracts and grants the Department has recommendations on getting close to the 5 percent reduction in our budget. The Department would recommend reducing the following to get to, to reduce our budget and so the following will be to reduce MEO's grant replacement...bus replacement grant request down to zero. We would also consider reducing our Maui Bus contracts, fixed route, paratransit and commuter and human services transportation program percent increases, so each of these items they're allowed up to a 5 percent, Mayor proposed a 3 percent so our initial calculations we reduced it down to 2 percent. And these recommendations are still considered providing a small percent increase for transportation service contracts as our contractors are still required to pay prevailing wages. So, we are looking at reducing it from 3 to 2 percent. And then for our CIP bus stops and shelter program we are willing to defer \$200,000 of our design funds to a future fiscal year. So, that



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total reduction would put us at around \$864,000 in reducing costs. However, if the Maui Bus contracts and human services transportation program grant percent increases were to further be reduced down to zero that would provide a total reduction of one point... a little over \$1.2 million. Which that \$1.2 million includes the reduction in MEO's bus replacement grant monies as well as this EAP bus stop and shelter program design fund deferment. So, we understand that this is always a tough decision that needs to be made and appreciate having the opportunity to provide recommendations on the reductions. This still allows all programs and services to still continue within our Department. So, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide that type of information. Definitely will get it in writing, transmitted to our Budget Office for transmittal over to on the Budget Committee, and if you have questions we're happy to take that at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay we'll start with Committee Vice-Chair King and then go to Pro Temp Kama. Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for being here, Department, and thank you for sharing your priorities with us 'cause I was thinking that, that transit hub was gonna be your top priority. But my question is have you gotten any...your Department have you gotten any direct stimulus funds from the Federal government directly to your Department? Like we heard that the Police Department had gotten some direct funds outside of the CARES Act. But I've been talking to people about mass transit seems to be one of the things that we can fund with stimulus money.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Member King. Yes we did...we are receiving funds from the CARES Act. I...if I heard you correctly I think you said outside of the CARES Act but we are getting funds from the CARES Act.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah. Okay. I know that there's money coming to the County from the CARES Act but and we haven't got the briefing on that yet. But we had heard that the Police Department there was another pot of 3 million that was, that they got 270,000 from that went to the State directly for law enforcement. So, I was just wondering if there's any mass transit funding that's coming directly to these...your types of organizations outside of the CARES Act.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question. Pretty much to my knowledge we are getting funds allocated from the CARES Act, but...

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, nothing...

MR. TAKAMORI: But we haven't gotten anything outside of the CARES Act for COVID-19.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you for that. And so, when the funds come in and do you, did you already get an amount from the CARES Act or are we still waiting for that from, for the County?

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MR. TAKAMORI: I believe the amount is 7.8 million and our...and we're trying to determine exactly what those funds are for. What we're being told is that we're allowed to...transportation agencies around the country are getting these funds and so we're being told that those funds can be utilized for when employees are placed on administrative leave because of reduction in services. So, --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. That's...

MR. TAKAMORI: --we're trying to utilize that funds to help our contract.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, that, is that 7.8 million is directed to your Department? Is that what your Department has out of that?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah, through the State.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Okay. Well okay so, we might be able to use that for some of the...what were some of our cuts or not? Will that supplement what we're trying cut, the cutbacks we're trying to do?

MR. TAKAMORI: It could help. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. And then my other...so, you know, my other question...thank you very much for reporting to us what your initial cuts would be too, I appreciate that. Is there any update on the advertising efforts that we talked about in Ms. Sugimura's Committee when we talked about possibly doing...bringing in revenue by doing advertising on the outside of the busses?

MR. TAKAMORI: Specifically, on the outside of the busses, there's no update on that. That would defiantly need to have an ordinance change for us to move forward with something like that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. 'Cause I was thinking that...I remember us talking about it in Committee that the inside wasn't working because there's so few people that see that, but that the outside might be a way to increase revenue to your Department as well. So, just hoping to get an update on that at some point maybe in Committee after Budget. So, basically I guess is there anything of those three items that you gave us, the MEO bus replacement cuts, the fixed route and the human services program cuts that would could be if we made those cuts that could be replaced with this CARES Act funding?

MR. TAKAMORI: I would have to look further into that details of...I mean again these funds were just put out for us and so we're still trying to determine what the rules are for us to access it.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. And then if you can just confirm I've been told by another county in our State that, that money has to be spent by the end of this calendar year. Is that what you've been told?

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MR. TAKAMORI: We were told that it should be spent at a priority, but there's no expiration date.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh really.

MR. TAKAMORI: But it could be removed if the higher-ups decide to pull monies back that went unspent I guess.

VICE-CHAIR KING: It could be removed by the State?

MR. TAKAMORI: I think more from the Federal government. If they --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh.

MR. TAKAMORI: --decide that they got to pull money back then they can if it's unspent or unencumbered.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, we want to spend it as soon as possible. Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Okay. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department. I'm going to get on a NACo call 'cause there's a call that started at 10:00 for the environment's *[sic]*, energy and land use committee that I'm supposed to be on. So, those are all my questions for the Department.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, I can again, you know, will my five minutes to anybody else who has more questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Will you be back for the Water Department review?

VICE-CHAIR KING: I'm hoping...yeah I'm hoping so. I'm hoping so.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Mahalo. Okay. Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department, for being here. I just wanted to be able to try to extend the conversation that was going on earlier 'cause in my head my sense is as we make these cuts my hope is that whatever funding that could come down from either the CARES Act or any other funding that might be out there that's coming down from the different agencies and the Federal government would be able to at least supplement or somehow be able to...that you'd be able to use some of those monies to replace some of the cuts that we're doing. So, as you do your cuts I just heard you say to Member King that sometimes even though we cut a particular item from your budget that even with the CARES Act you might

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not be able to replace that funding because the CARES Act or whatever other funding you might get may not allow you to replace those areas in which we have cut. So, in knowing that when you...and you've already given us your priorities so I can appreciate that and that's where my head is at right now, that's what I'm trying to think of as I think about all the departments that we're talking to. So, I just want you all to know that that's where my head is at in thinking that we'll try to make it as painless as possible. But I think that in trying to cut your Department, at the same time trying to use some other funding to replace some of that, that hopefully that it all, you know, comes out in the wash. So, that's just my comment, Chair, thank you. But I think...but I thank you Department for coming forth with your priorities and I'm very happy for what you folks have decided to do and it was hard. But thank you very much. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you very much, Department for being upfront and forthright in terms of telling us what your priorities are because that's exactly what we've been looking at or will be looking at as we craft this new budget for Fiscal Year 2021 under the COVID-19 challenges. And then also the 5 percent cuts when you do submit it in writing I guess you can...you said you gonna reduce MEO bus replacement to zero and what that...can you tell us what that amount is that you're reducing as well as the other items? If you could do that. So, my question that I have for you is I know that you're doing a rates and studies...you did a RFP on it and it's in 18-6 and 18-17 of the detail that we got and I just wanted to know if you could just generally tell us where you are on that rates and fees study. And I think you had said before when you presented in my Water Committee that you would have maybe suggestions for not this fiscal year but the next fiscal year. So, could you summarize that, the rates and fees?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. Sure. Okay. So, the Maui Bus rates and fees study is moving forward by the support of you folks, the Council and Mayor based on discussions from the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget sessions. So, now, you know, now that Maui is an urban zone area based from the 2010 Census there's additional requirements that are needed to be fulfilled before raising any fares or carrying out any major transportation services during a regular, during regular times, not during the COVID times. But so, the Maui County Council in Fiscal Year 2018 did an audit on our Department which made recommendations to establish formal program objectives to govern overall program management for our Maui Bus programs and also recommended establishing governing fare policy. So, the intent of the study which we are moving forward, we are in contract since the beginning of January, we expect it to be completed, and have recommendations by the ending of this calendar year, December, and it also includes having the consultants meet with all the Councilmembers individually to get feedback so that we are making certain that you guys are at the table when it comes to us doing this analysis. And so, that's kind of where we are right now. There will be a final presentation to Council when the study is complete as well.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. That's it for questions from me. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Sorry I got some weed whacking going on at my house. Can you hear okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Cool. I just...thank you very much for your proposed cuts I really appreciate it. I just was wondering on those four busses how long do you think we can go before they need to be replaced? Especially one is looks like over 300,000 miles. And what if we just get one instead of the four and make cuts in other areas?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question. Basically, when we have vehicles that...I guess MEO provided a list of vehicles that they plan to replace if funding is allocated for it they will then utilize it to order vehicles. If vehicle funds are not allocated this fiscal year then it'll just be pushed off to next year. So, it just...you just gotta look at it as vehicles get older maintenance cost increases to keep them on the road. So, at a certain point it's good to start replacing them and that's kind of where MEO is at right now in these vehicles. If not then next year they'll be coming back for a ask on these vehicles again.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Just saying that next year our finances look more worse than this year so just wanted you to keep that in mind and if that still is your close-in area for cuts maybe we could do some sort of hybrid where we allow at least one, maybe the 14-passenger one possibly but for your consideration. I was wondering my question number 18 if you could explain Syncromatics CAD and AVL is the CAD...is that similar to like how the 911 CAD works?

MR. TAKAMORI: Sure. Yeah. So, Syncromatics is a company that we purchased the CAD/AVL system from so it's an intelligent transportation system that includes hardware and software to allow riders to be able to track the vehicles. So, CAD/AVL stands for computer aided dispatching/automatic vehicle location. So, it allows...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thanks that's all I needed.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then just number 23 that the only measures of success are based on current services. How can the Department measure success of the Maui Bus taking into account the unmet needs and the cost to the community and the County? And especially now within this crisis and you're measuring success based on current services and then, you know, I think you guys are still successful, but is there another way that you can think of to measure success other than current use?

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MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah. Basically, we have other fixed routes that haven't been implemented. So, we also when we get community input from the community the Department does look at it and forwards proposals of expansion requests for Mayor's consideration for inclusion in the Mayor's proposed budget. So, it just depends on where, what the priorities are and what gets allocated or what gets requested. We do get surveys or...from our riders and as well as we're out there talking with them to find out what's going on when we're down at the hub. So, we try to reach out and see what's going on from the riders' standpoint as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. And you...in your written response you're gonna provide a list of the bus stops and whatnot? The ones with shelters.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. I will. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I don't have any more oral questions for you guys, I'm satisfied to wait for your written responses. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. It looks like Committee Vice-Chair King has joined us again.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yes. Thank you, Chair. My...the time was wrong on the calendar, it didn't translate with the daylight savings time issues and so the meeting is already over. I'll try to get the notes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chair, no I listened to the Director and my colleague's questions so far and comments and so at this round I have no questions at this round. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Hi, guys. Okay. You mentioned that your grant to MEO is gonna be zero but do you know how much you give them now?

MR. TAKAMORI: The grant meaning for bus replacement?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: For anything what's going to zero?

MR. TAKAMORI: Oh. So, it would be the grant...the MEO bus replacement grant subsidy it will go from 455,000 down to zero.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And then how much of a drop in the ridership have we experienced since January?

MR. TAKAMORI: Would you...for any of the programs or for all four programs, or specifically...

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm talking about the ridership, the general ridership.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah. There's four programs. So, I can tell you on a daily average for fixed route we have dropped by 62 percent in terms of boardings. Now in current COVID times paratransit has dropped 68 percent, commuter has dropped 90 percent, and the human services has dropped 81 percent. And those numbers are based on like paratransit and human services are based on because certain services are closed. Our riders are still out and about going to dialysis or medical appointments and essential travel. So, and pretty much everybody's reminded to be...if you're gonna ride our bus you have to be on there for a purpose, not just riding around aimlessly.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, people who do continue to ride the bus have you gone to smaller vehicles? Since you don't need a huge bus for two people right?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. So, where we are able to do so we have directed our contractors to use smaller vehicles, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, knowing that we are not gonna go back to normal overnight and most people are predicting 18 months to 2 years or worse. Are you going to be coming up with some kind of plan to try and make adjustments to let's say fees? We may have to increase the fees over time or as other people have talked about are we on top of getting reimbursements from the Federal and State governments?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. So, with regards to rates and fees that's part of what the study...we'll have additional conversations with the consultants for the study. There wouldn't be any proposed rates and fees changes this fiscal year, but next fiscal year there could be based on the recommendations from the study. As well as with the outside funds we are looking to see how that can help with regards to the reduction in revenue from our reduced services and ridership.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Mark, I know that all of these things are beyond your control but if your services drop 30 to 40 to 50 percent then we may have to look at whether a more substantial cut is warranted for your Department for now. Right? Can you understand that?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. I understood that and we have reduced services currently as well, because of the reduction in ridership we have cut routes at this time. Some of our routes have been cut.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So, what I'm saying is if you cut the routes then you don't need the money, you don't need, you know, the 100 percent of the funding that you have in your budget or your upcoming budget. Like for instance if a million dollars was set aside for X ridership and you have only 50 percent yeah. So, you don't need a million dollars in other words right? You probably need maybe half a million dollars is what I'm saying.

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MR. TAKAMORI: Correct. And that's again you said, like you said it's hard to say what the future will look like so it's...I understand what you're saying and if we do have a substantial cut then therefore it would be very tough to re-add services if we don't have funds allocated for it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. One last comment is we're trying to help you, but keep in mind that we can do, you know, amendments throughout the year without any problems. So, it doesn't make sense for any department not only yours to have a cushion, you know, hoping things will get back to a certain level when we know it's not gonna be at that particular level. Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Mr. Director. Getting back to those busses that you're considering removing that grant for MEO. I believe two of the busses are over 300,000 miles, 1 bus 189,000 and I guess 1 bus is deflected. I presume deflected means it's not even on the road. Have you had any discussions with MEO about the ridership? I presume that ridership has gone down as well and the folks who use these busses I guess these are wheelchair busses for wheelchair clients. It's primarily to take them to the doctors for dialysis and any other types of medical needs. Can you confirm that?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. I believe that those are most...because those are ones with wheelchair lifts those are ones for probably senior services type transportation related trips. And those would be for those types of locations.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: So, those riders they're constantly using the bus then right for medical needs. So, there's been basically no drop off there right?

MR. TAKAMORI: With regards to human services yeah it's right now we're actively still doing dialysis transportation as well as doctors' appointments essential trips. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. And you mentioned those busses they spend a lot of time in the shop and so MEO has told you already that the busses for example that are over 300,000 they're spending a lot of time in the shop and a lot of costs and so forth?

MR. TAKAMORI: That's correct. That's typical with all of our busses, as they age they're in the shop more often.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. 'Cause I'm kind of having reservations about, you know, deleting the whole grant, I mean maybe if we can give them one, at least one new bus, you know, we want to keep those busses as serviceable as possible. And so, anyway, I just would hate to really cut too deep in that area 'cause those folks have some serious needs and we want to make sure the busses can get them there and not have so much



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money being spent on maintenance. So, that's kind of pretty much where I stand on it. But if it's, if, I guess if MEO can live with it so be it, but my opinion it just seems pretty drastic to cut the whole grant, but anyway but thanks for your thoughts on that. And as far as your...the drivers verifying they have PPE protection in general for all programs?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. They're allowed...yes they do.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And then the social distance...

MR. TAKAMORI: And we also have other PPEs on order as well trying to get in the pipeline. And then social distancing we have in our busses an area behind the driver where typically we're not allowing people to sit and so that at least provides a distance between driver and passengers as well as in the busses we try to remind passengers to spread out where possible.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Director Takamori and Deputy Du Pont. I just had a few questions on...in the summary Page 572 under grant awards. So, it looks like you've got about 10,400,000 in grant awards. And what is the percentage of these awards to your overall Department budget?

MR. TAKAMORI: I don't think I...I haven't done the calculations based on overall. We can get that for you in a few minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Then so, it looks like the majority of them are 20 percent matching funds so quick calculations it looks like maybe the County provides \$3 to \$4 million in matching funds of those grant awards. Something like that. Is...and this is mostly FTA grants. So, does the Department receive funding from the State?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. That would be under the transportation program grant. Those...out of the 4.5 million there's money set aside from State funds for our transit hub.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right. Okay. Okay. Thank you, Director. That's...Chair, that's all questions I had. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. My turn. Okay. I have a couple questions. So, several of the Members have already asked about the CARES Act funding and my understanding is that Maui County's share for transportation is \$7 million. Is that what you understand?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. I think it's 7.8. Correct.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, \$7.8 million. Has that already been considered and incorporated into this budget?

MR. TAKAMORI: We...no, in the sense of the budget was created before the COVID happened and so we are looking at the 7.8 to help like I said earlier for admin leave purposes for our contractors. Funds being set aside so that we keep people employed and part of the intent of that fund so we are...we're trying to come up with a calculation of what that type of cost would be till the ending of this fiscal year if services don't return back to normal. And I guess we don't know when normal would be.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sorry just for clarification. You said that the 7 million would be looked at as a...for Account A for salary and wages?

MR. TAKAMORI: It would be under B because that would, it would be funds set aside for our contractors.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, contractors.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, what line items are you looking at which contract work? Do you have that information?

MR. TAKAMORI: It would be our Maui Bus contract. So, fixed route, paratransit and commuter. 'Cause those are I guess coming from the CARES Act to FTA for through the State to us. So, it would be used for our public transit programs.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, none of those that you just listed the vendors are what you proposed for reduction. What you proposed for reduction was MEO bus replacement, human services and design fund. So, that's a different...those are different line...

MR. TAKAMORI: No. We did propose a reduction in contract percentage increases for our fixed route paratransit and commuter as well. So, when I...when we have our letters sent up it'll detail exactly where we're proposing the reductions are but it does include those three contracts as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, your written response to us where you're proposing to reduce your budget will include the \$7.8 million that our Transportation Department will receive?

MR. TAKAMORI: We would have to work on that. Yeah. 'Cause I think our understanding was just providing a recommendation where we will be reducing, I don't think we calculated in by if we do a reduction then pulling funds from the 7.8, we're not quite there yet. But if that's the intent of what you want us to do then we'll have to look at that further.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah that's...I think that's what the body would like to consider. We don't want to unnecessarily cut anything if we're gonna get Federal funding to cover those costs. At least that's, that would, that's what I would like. But I also see a lot of nodding heads so I think, you know, many of us are in agreement that if you'd be able to first incorporate the \$7.8 million from the CARES Act and then if necessary, you know, propose all reductions to the Committee I think that's where we would like...that's the direction we would like to go.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Yeah we'll make certain that we review what the CARES Act allows us to do before we provide that information back to you. But we will work on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Mahalo, Director. Those are all the questions I have. Okay. So, we'll go to Committee Vice-Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair. And thanks for clarifying the need. I mean I think we can go ahead and make cuts to our County budget if we know the State money is coming in, but they need to tell us where that's...I mean the Federal money, where the Federal monies coming in to. But I wanted to just kind of follow up on 'cause I had that same question as Member Molina about the bus replacement. How many busses were planning to be replaced for that 400,000?

MR. TAKAMORI: It would be a replacement...\$455,000 to replace 4 busses.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Four busses. Okay. And just I know he...you gave some explanation of what those busses are but are any of them, just bottom line are any of them health and safety issues? Like if we...that we...they're either routes that we have to retire a bus and we need a new one because it's a safety issue of driving it. Were your original plans to retire all those busses or we're just adding on new busses?

MR. TAKAMORI: No, these would be replacement busses. So, out of the list of four vehicles there's one vehicle that is...has been deflected so they're not actually using it currently but they plan to replace it when they got a replacement vehicle. So, one out of four is not in use, the rest are still on the road.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. But are they so bad that they're safety issues to continue driving? If we cut this and we still need those routes are we gonna be jeopardizing everybody's safety?

MR. TAKAMORI: I believe that as long as it's still placed on the road it's still safe to transport people.

VICE-CHAIR KING: And so, you believe that if we cut the replacement that those will still be drivable and they'll still be on the road?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. All right that's my only question, Chair. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I have no more questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I look forward to the Department's written responses. So, thank you very much, Department.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just had a question come up following Member King's questioning and the deflected bus and whatnot. You know, when we're not in the pandemic I commute from West Maui and a lot of folks use those size type busses as their residences along the coastline until they get prevented from or made to hide someplace else. And I was wondering if you could find out the plans for once the busses become decommissioned. We don't necessarily want to see more bus houses on the stretch between the Pali and Puamana but if the Administration or folks are looking into tiny home projects it may be appropriate in the appropriate locations to repurpose these vehicles as tiny homes, but just not along our shorelines with no type of management. So, I was wondering if you can look into what MEO does when they decommission their busses, what happens to the busses.

MR. TAKAMORI: Hi. Thank you for that question. To my knowledge they, when they defleet vehicles they pretty much take out all usable parts from it to use on other vehicles and then they...then they take it down to recycle...recycle it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. If they're...

MR. TAKAMORI: I don't think they put it out to auction.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. If they're recycling it that's good I just don't want it to come back to haunt us on our shorelines. I'm not sure where those busses come from, but it was a problem this past year.

MR. TAKAMORI: We hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. Gosh, I told you I had no questions first round and then all my colleagues had some really good discussion points. So, my thing to the Director for this round and again I understand the Federal funding, I understand Highway Fund for your Department needs as well as General Fund support. So, I want some comment from you is again hearing the discussions from my colleagues you already mentioned adjustments to potential rate and fees but you did

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not give us any comment that I can recall about route adjustments or route eliminations as well as equipment, substitutions or equipment adjustments. If social distancing becomes a, I would say interim policy that'll last for months or potentially couple years do we need to look at different types of vehicles to fit the needs of the medical requirements? Like we not gonna allow 50 people on the busses no more, lucky if you can get seven maybe, I don't know. So, is that something you're already working on a contingency effort?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah. That's something that we've been talking about internally. It's challenges that City and County of Honolulu is already having where they reduced services but now with less busses on the road it's filling up so they have to put on additional drivers to drive larger vehicles I think at that time. So, it's something that we've been discussing and something we've been thinking about.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. No, I would appreciate that and again maybe you could share that with our Committee Chair Sugimura hopefully by Friday so she can maybe potentially help give us some recommendations on how to adjust and assist your Department in fulfilling the needs. I mean it's a double-edge sword yeah, Director, no money, no people on the bus 'cause you cannot ride the bus since where you gonna go? You don't have a job. So, I understand your predicament. The other thing I wanted to ask you about is again your construction timetable is still again no additional delays, August opening as scheduled, right?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. That's what we're still shooting for.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Is there anything we need from the State on that transaction we had with the State and the County? Is there anything we should be aware of that we would receive that we wouldn't get since Leg may not go back to session?

MR. TAKAMORI: The funds allocated from the State are sitting in HHFDC's budget and it's been encumbered for our usage when we're ready for construction.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark, you know, on Page 571 of the Program Budget, what's the breakdown of the 6...under operations, other costs \$6,580,200. What's that? Mark, did you get my question?

MR. TAKAMORI: Sorry. Yeah. We're looking it up right now.

MR. DU PONT: Five seventy-one.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh. Okay. Well, if you don't know it offhand...

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MR. TAKAMORI: That would be under grant revenue. So, we will get that to you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. That's all I have, Madam Chair. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just the one question for the Director on Page 574 it states that the cost per passenger trip for FY '21 would be \$17.62 per passenger and then on Page 585 under public transit program fixed route service there is the same description cost per passenger trip but with a total of \$4.59 for FY 2021. Can you help me understand the difference between the two numbers?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. So, the reason why there's two different numbers is because there's...we look at boardings on each of the different programs. So, the one you're referencing is MEO Human Services Transportation that one has different funding source which is grant and General Fund, and it has different boardings from our public transit program where that one is highway funded and it has a different boarding. So, that's why the cost per passenger trip is different.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: All right. Okay. Thank you for that clarification. I have no more questions, Madam Chair. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had one more clarification question for the Director. On Page 563 it says there's a 7.2 percent increase under operation services. And I just was curious what that increase was for.

MR. TAKAMORI: Could you repeat what page and what you're referring to? Sorry, I missed that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Five hundred sixty-three under operation services there's a 7.2 percent increase from 2020.

MR. TAKAMORI: We'll get back to you on the details on that.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. All right I have three questions. The first question is regarding the CARES Act funding, the 7.8 million, when does the Department expect to receive that funding?

MR. TAKAMORI: We're hoping as soon as possible. We just got documentation from the State Department of Transportation on what we need to do to try and get moving with agreements in place. So, that's kind of where we are right now. We just got the paperwork in our e-mail today, this morning. So, we got to read through it, see what

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they're requiring for us to submit and then we can see where or how long it's gonna take for us to access it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: How timely. Mahalo. Okay. So, how our County would be able to access that fund is through the State Department of Transportation? Or that's something that the Department, you still need to look into?

MR. TAKAMORI: The funds flow through the State Department of Transportation to us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. So, if the State Legislature does not reconvene then that 7.8 million should still be able to make its way to Maui County?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. That's my understanding.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Okay. That's a relief. Okay. So, you mentioned adjusting rates and fees. Did you have anything specific in mind?

MR. TAKAMORI: Regarding rates and fees, no we don't have anything at this time because we're going through the process of the rates and fees study.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay. So, the adjustment to the rates and fees wouldn't happen FY '21 it would happen maybe next year or something?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah. We would have recommendations by December of 2020 which would be ready for that upcoming budget. So, that would be 2022 then. Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Mahalo for that clarification. Okay. Those are all my questions. Mahalo. Okay. Members, any last questions or comments for Director Takamori or Deputy Director Du Pont? Okay. Seeing none, Director, would you like to provide any final comments before we thank you for coming?

MR. TAKAMORI: No, thank you. Thank you for you guys...I know that it's a very tough situation you guys are in. We appreciate you guys working with us. We will get you the information with regards to the questions you guys asked us this morning and we continue looking forward to working with you folks as we move forward through this uncertain times.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Mahalo again to both you and Deputy Director for joining us today and answering all of our questions. We look forward to receiving your written responses to our questions. Stay safe out there.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay, Members, it's 10:45 and we can take a quick 15-minute break and reconvene at 11 o'clock for water.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay great.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Are you all in, Kelly? Are you all in?

VICE-CHAIR KING: I'm all in, Tasha. All my chips on the table.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members, it's 10:46 on April 15<sup>th</sup> and the Economic Development and Budget Committee will reconvene at 11:00. Meeting is in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:46 a.m.  
RECONVENE: 11:05 a.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(gavel). . . .Budget Committee please return to order. It's 11:05 on April 15<sup>th</sup>. And we have before us the last department, Department of Water. We have Director Jeff Pearson, Deputy Director Helene Kau, Holly Ho, Fiscal Waterworks Officer in person, and then on the...joining us virtually we have Eva Blumenstein, Planning Program Manager, and Wendy Taomoto, Engineering Program Manager. Okay. So, Director Pearson, I'll invite you to share some opening comments with us and then we'll have two rounds of questions from the Members five minutes each. Okay, Director Pearson?

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY**

MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Good morning. I'm Director Jeff Pearson with the Department of Water Supply. We're sitting in front of the Economic Development Budget Committee. Thank you and your Members. The Department of Water Supply comes before you with our proposed budget for FY 2021, who would have thought we'd be meeting in this type of format at times like this, it's quite odd, but we have to get our work done so glad we can be here, we just need to keep going. The COVID virus has affected every aspect of our lives including this meeting. So, as this pandemic moves forward our budget likely will be reduced to meet any loss that we may have in revenue. This morning I have...oh you already introduced us so I won't introduce us again, but we're all here. I will try to be brief but a short overview of our Department may be helpful not only just to the Members but to those who may be listening. DWS is comprised of two main branches, the Administrative Branch and the Operations Branch. Under the Administration Branch are the Administration Division, Fiscal Division and Water Resources and Planning. Under the Operations Branch is all the men and women that are mostly in the field, that will be the Field Operations Division, the Plant Operation Division and the Water Treatment Plant Division. Under our Plant Operation Division, we operate a lab, testing for water quality daily with thousands of tests conducted throughout the year on Maui and



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Moloka'i. Our water quality testing is also done at our six water treatment plants to ensure quality treated surface water is delivered to our customers. By Charter DWS is under the direction of the Mayor and the Board of Water Supply as an advisory to the Director. We are subject to the rules and regulations of the US EPA Safe Drinking Water Branch administered through the State of Hawai'i Department of Health. Another State agency that has jurisdiction over Maui and actually over the State is the State Water Commission, the Commission on Water Resource Management. They overlook the issues that we deal with, with surface water and with groundwater. I'm not going to get into those detailed issued on the surface water and the contested cases unless questions come up that refer to those issues. I'll just provide a real short summary of the budget I know you all have reviewed it and we're gonna go over it now, but our proposed expenditures for FY '21 are about 74.5 million this is an increase of about 5 percent over 2020. Within that our salaries have increased by 7 percent, our operation budget has increased by about 12 percent, debt service has decreased greatly by 27 percent, and our equipment purchases have decreased by more than 34 percent. Equivalent personnel has increase by ten employees with two employees transferring from the Fiscal Division to Field Operations so there really wasn't an increase there. Our proposed CIP budget for Fiscal '21 is at 21.6 million with over 16 million of that in cash. Due to this virus and a sure drop in revenue we are proposing a 5 percent cut which is part of your questions which we'll go over in detail later. This 5 percent cut or approximately \$5 million to get us through close to six months of our FY '21 and towards the end of the calendar year. We'll then be able to analyze additional months of revenue data and hopefully be in the beginning of a recovery and therefore we can decide how to move forward to be fiscally sound. As an enterprise fund you all know that we have to be responsible and only allow expenditures where we have revenue to cover these expenditures. As mentioned earlier we do have \$16 million in cash in FY '21 CIP and can defer some of those projects should we need additional cash in FY '21. We also looked at our FY 2020 CIP budget and we can prioritize projects there. So, thank you for letting me share this real brief introduction and we'll let the Members, Chair and the Members move forward with questions and hopefully we can answer them all. Of course, if we have issues where we can't answer them we will get back to you very quickly 'cause I know we have a short timeframe for turn around here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for being so concise, Director Pearson. Okay. We'll start with Committee Vice-Chair King and we'll go to Member Sinenci after.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you so much Chair. Good morning, Water Department. And --

MR. PEARSON: Good morning.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --last but certainly not least because we know by water all things find life. So, my first question to you is, you know, we heard from the Department of Transportation this morning that they just got their allocation from the CARES Act. So, did you get an allocation of that Federal funding coming through the CARES Act directly to your Department?

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MS. KAU: No.

MR. PEARSON: No.

VICE-CHAIR KING: No? Okay so, you don't have a designation to Water Department at this point. Is that a definitive no, it looks like you're questioning?

MS. KAU: No, it's definitive.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: No, we didn't get any Federal funding, definitely not.

VICE-CHAIR KING: You didn't get any. Okay. Do you expect to?

MS. KAU: No.

VICE-CHAIR KING: No. Okay. So, I guess we're kind of on our own with funding that has to be, come from within the rates and fees of the Water Department. How much...I mean do you...in your proposal I think...I thought you had a, you know, even after the cuts is there still requests for general funding to come to the Water Department?

MS. KAU: No.

MR. PEARSON: We're trying to be as brief as we can with our answers to allow more questions. So, if we sound rude we're not being rude we're being brief.

VICE-CHAIR KING: No, no I appreciate it. I just don't know some of it sounds like your kind of questioning when you say no. So, I just want to make sure you're sure. No, I appreciate the brevity, I'm sure the Members appreciate that. So, no. Okay. So, yeah I was hoping maybe some of the grant money was coming in. But, you know, what I really wanted to ask you about was on the watershed grants. We have all these different watershed grants and they sometimes seem like they're competing with each other for the funding. And so, I was just wondering at some point is there a movement and I actually talked to Member Hokama about this at one point to try to do a master plan for the watersheds across the County and do some kind of funding where we're figuring out where we need the money on a master plan scale instead of having each watershed kind of compete with the other ones and coming to us for their own separate funding. Has everybody thought to that or movement towards to doing that or do you just intend to keep going, you know, project by project?

MR. PEARSON: I'll answer briefly but I'd like to let Eva step in because of course she's managing these watersheds and the funds that go towards them.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

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MR. PEARSON: I know that the watersheds have their own separate, I mean there are similar issues with each watershed but they of course they have separate their locations. So, I don't know if a master plan would help or hurt with the bureaucracy of working with the money issue. But I think we should be open to any suggestion that comes out that may help, you know, allow to protect our watersheds which ends up of course protecting our source water. So, Eva, do you have any other specifics that you could comment on that idea?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yes. You guys hear me?

MS. KAU: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you. Yes. So, first off all the watershed projection projects that we fund have to have a watershed management plan in place. So, that it's their strategic plan or master plan if you wish that should be a five year or longer plan so we can foresee what their overall needs are. Then of course those needs do change somewhat from year to year both in terms of the projects, other outside sources of funding that's not coming from the Department. So, we have an overall overview and that said though I mean there is still not infinite funds or water rate funds. So, that in the end we end up having this sort of like a competition of Department funds between all the different grant projects.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. I really appreciate that, Eva, and I just, you know, I just want to kind of put that out there because otherwise it ends up being them coming to us and us making these decision of which ones are more important or where, you know, do we keep the funding in here, do we cut there, do we increase there and, you know, some of the issues are the same across several of the watersheds and some of them have their unique problems. I mean I think that Himalayan ginger we've been hearing about for three or four years and, you know, I'm glad that they're finally getting to that but, you know, and how does that fit in with the other watersheds and their invasive species issues. So, I just kind of wanted to get a feel for are we gonna continue on this pathway and we just have to make our decisions as a Council which ones, you know, if we can't fund them all which ones get the full funding or which ones get cut. So, if...I mean I'm assuming that what comes to us is a recommendation from your Department that deals with the watershed grants and that's they've looked at these different projects?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: Eva, go ahead.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Okay. Thank you. Yeah. So, it starts out of course with a request for proposals then we get proposals from all the individual projects, rarely from new

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players but we have one rapid `ōhi`a death that we proposed for FY '21 that is new. And then so, we, in some cases we match the proposal or recommend funding match the proposal in other cases it's an expansion or reduction 'cause we're going through this pretty rigorous analysis with the grants analysis committee looking at previous year's performance, new needs. So, what you brought up Member King that ginger the Himalayan ginger has remained a problem in East Maui, there's areas that are very infested that they need to keep addressing year to year, we ask for little more funding in our original request for FY '21 to address that aggressively to maybe make, get a little more headway. And for West Maui we heard from Chris Brosius this morning that's more of a new infestation that we thought if we put in a good chunk of money based on West Maui's proposal that, that could be aggressively addressed right away and then maybe even eliminated and then not become such a ongoing problem as we have in East Maui.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you for that. You know, I look forward to your recommendations for your cuts in detail, but anyway I just wanted to bring that up and I appreciate your response. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And aloha, Director Pearson. So, just for clarification you mentioned that your operating budget for 2021 is 74.5 million?

MR. PEARSON: Correct. That's not including CIP. The CIP is another 21.6.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then did you say what your anticipated revenues were for 2021?

MR. PEARSON: Prior to COVID it was gonna be quite the same revenue. Of course, depending on...yeah so we're, you know, as I discussed earlier we're an enterprise fund so we spend what we take in. And I guess that is just fine until you end up not taking in as much which is going to happen soon. Actually, it's already been happening, so.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. I appreciate that. Thank you. And then on Page 595 of the budget, so it looks like there's some significant cuts that you've made. Under other costs you have cuts of \$200,000 for a feasibility study to use stormwater. And also \$100,000 deletion for a pilot project. Can you briefly go over a few of them or some significant ones?

MR. PEARSON: The \$100,000, Chair, I mean Member Lee is quite aware of that, it's discussing water conservation and we're incorporating that with our water meter replacement program. We talked about that, you may not remember but we talked about that in Committee a little bit. What we're going to do is...what would you say isolate a certain area where we're gonna replace the water meters, look at the water meter use prior to these new meters and then track the water meter use with these

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new meters and we're hoping to see where we lost water earlier with the old meters either it wasn't registered or the meter is just inaccurate. But these new meters will show that we did not lose this so actually we gain revenue so that isn't quite conservation, but when there's leaks with these new meters they'll be able to notice these leaks quickly and get there to stop the leaks and to save any wasted lost water either, you know, on our side or on the consumer side. The second one, the \$200,000 Member Sugimura is aware of this one more intimately. She was looking at ways to increase the water, stormwater use for the Upcountry. And we met a few times with her and some of her support and there's already a study out there that looks at stormwater collection Upcountry. There's a couple of different options and that study is supposed to be upgraded and revised or improved--whatever you want to call it--by the USDA. So, when that is completed then we're gonna go back and look at that study to try to evaluate where we can go or what water supply could do to follow the direction of that study.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Director. And I appreciate the Department's willingness to make ends meet. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Mr. Director. In your opening remarks you mentioned about 5 million in cuts I believe and I don't know if you've touched on the details of those cuts. Could you give us some highlights of the, part of your 5 percent cuts regarding the 5 million? I mean, you know, what, what's going to be cut, CIP, operations, equipment, et cetera? Can you give us some highlights on that?

MR. PEARSON: Gladly. I was going to pass this off to Helene but she passed me the sheet so I guess I'm gonna give you the answer. The 5 million is about, is, you know, the 5 percent of the total our total budget the 74 plus the 21 right. So, the 5 million is 5 percent of 95 million 96 million. So, of that 5 million are up for those cuts were...I'll just read them off to you quickly and of course we'll provide this before by Friday. I think you might get it by Monday. We're gonna reduce the amount of grants, first we're gonna reduce the increase in grants which was about 232,000 from this year to last year. And we're also gonna make a reduction in those grants of about 260,000. So, that totals for about 500,000 more or less. We have...well we're keeping one expansion position.

MS. KAU: Actually, we have 11 so, we're...

MR. PEARSON: We have 11 expansion positions and you mentioned...I mentioned the two that we're just transferring to a different division so we're cutting the other nine expansion positions. You can hear more on that later if we discuss Wailuku Water that's a bunch of them, that's the 300,000. There's a 2.5 million that we had in the budget for Wailuku Water Company assuming we're going to take over that system. We're cutting 2 million out of that leaving 500,000 in at least for now. In the equipment side we're deferring a 12 yard dump truck, the larger type dump trucks

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that's almost a quarter of a million. And then there's a small hydraulic cylinder for like 30,000. In the CIP side there's Mahinahina Water Treatment Plant structural repairs that we think we can defer, the buildings not falling down so we can defer that. That's 1.25 million and then we're going to try to partially defer work on a clear well, you know, the water, it holds the water as it leaves prior to leaving the treatment plant up in Olinda. It's 3 million gallons and the roof needs replacement or repair. So, we're gonna try to reduce the 1.5 million we had in the budget by, reduce it by 700,000 and see if we can do a partial work on that tank roof in order to still keep it in, you know, in safe operating conditions. So, that totals like 5.01 million.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Mr. Director. Sounds like you had a big laundry list for us there. So, it's much appreciated. No questions, further questions for this round, Madam Chair. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Hello, Director and Deputy Director and everybody else from the Water Department. I want to bring up something I always bring up and that is under, let's see, utilities \$16,330,121. I think it might be cheaper if you bought Maui Electric. You know, I'm hoping at some point in the future and I've...we've had this discussion a million times but still I think you still have to try and find other means to utilize renewable energy technologies, hydroelectricity or anything. But \$16 million I think is too much to be paying for electricity. That's one issue, then the other issue...you don't have to answer me you can answer in writing. The other issue is how are we going to maintain the Wailuku Water Well, the intake after we buy the property from Wailuku Water Company? How are we going to maintain that system?

MR. PEARSON: Before I answer, did...maybe I should ask, Chair, but were you able, did the Members receive our answers to your questions? Not that, I'm not using that as an excuse but did the Members receive those that might help the Members?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I didn't ask...

MR. PEARSON: I'm gonna answer the question, I was just wondering if you received those, our answers. But anyway...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I didn't get a chance to see it and besides I didn't ask that question in writing.

MR. PEARSON: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I don't know...

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MR. PEARSON: Oh okay. Yeah, I know that you...no I plan on answering, I'm sorry, Alice, I didn't mean to --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: --skirt the question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: The tough part of answering that question is we don't know what we're getting and we don't, we've never had a chance to walk the system, we've never been out in the system, we don't know any information from Wailuku Water on the condition of the intakes, you know, the diversions at the stream. We don't know the condition of the ditch system itself, we don't know the condition of the tunnels that are part of the ditch system. So, I really can't answer your question and at the time when we were doing the budget that's why we kind of picked a number out of the air and decided to have maybe a half a million dollars in assessing the system and evaluating the system and then we just put 2 million as a guess to start doing maintenance and repairs on the system. So, I'm sorry I can't answer you but we haven't been able to get any information on what's out there at least at this point in time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well thank you, Director, but I'm not sure how you would ever get that information if you have no money to pay for it. You know, so I mean what happened, when are we gonna actually buy the property?

MR. PEARSON: Okay that I...I'm sorry, you know, I apologize for not being able to give you good answers, Member Lee, a lot of this work or most of this work dealing with Wailuku Water Company is coming out of the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor. They're the ones that are doing their best to work on this and I know of course they're getting support from Corp. Counsel, but I'm not always involved and I again I can't answer the question. I'm sure that...well I know that part of the issue is the State lands and the conservation lands that is looking within the State Legislature for monies to purchase that. So, that's part of the equation, but I really don't have an answer on that, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. I'm done.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, yeah if I can just follow up, Director, my understanding is this is a proposal for us to consider so there is...I would hope you wouldn't talk in terms of Council made a decision, we did not make a decision to acquire. And hearing your comments about the \$2 million to do maintenance are we assuming then the current water company ownership is negligent in their prudent maintenance of the system? Because that's what it sounds like to me and I don't need additional liabilities.

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MR. PEARSON: The existing water company it's hard for me to answer, but it's an assumption, I don't know if you want to use the negligent but it's an assumption that there is much repair and maintenance needed in the system. I can, I'll say that comfortably.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Negligence, Director, yeah negligence is failure to exercise prudent requirements for your operations, yeah, prudent. That's the definition. So, yeah I got a big problem about why you asking me to take liabilities when I don't see any benefits to the County tax base.

MR. PEARSON: Member Hokama, I share your opinions, but I don't make all the decisions and I respect my boss so I'm gonna try to not say much more.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. No, I understand your position. The second question I want in this round, Director, and again I appreciate your comments regarding the watershed grants program and I support your efforts. We're dealing in my Committee the impact of feral animals and feral animal management. I haven't heard any discussions as far as how you see it impacting your Department's ability, conservation efforts and damage to the actual vegetation within the watershed. You have any comments you can share with us at this time?

MR. PEARSON: I'll make a brief comment and then I'm gonna defer it to Eva again if that's okay. I know that feral animals can affect the actual saturation or the recharge of the watershed, but I don't think that these watershed partners do much effort on that side of things. Can you help me, Eva, in the efforts that the watershed partnerships do with feral animals?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah. Thank you. This is Eva. So, yeah multiple of the grant subsidies do fund feral ungulate management. So, that's wild pigs, deer, feral cattle that do trample and make significant damage to the watersheds and the native forests. So, just in terms of trapping, eliminating the ungulates, fencing off critical watershed areas and maintaining those fence that's a big chunk of the efforts that we fund. In terms of any other animals, feral cats such that, that those are not efforts that the Department funds.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Well, we may need to have your Department work cooperatively with...I don't know where land management is gonna evolve by the way with Parks and other agencies because this is a Countywide issue for us, feral animal management. And every island has impacts to our watershed even on Lāna'i where we do resident hunts to assist population control. So, I'm looking at how we can improve the invasive program whether it's plants or vegetation or the ungulates themselves. And I'm looking at using technology because I think New Zealand has shown that with their development of natural and bacterial efforts they found another way to attack Himalayan ginger by using natural enemies of the plant itself from the Himalayan environment. So, I'm looking forward to those improvements and not just throwing money every year at something that, you know, I don't see that much progress in. So, I would appreciate that effort on your part. Thank you, Director.



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MR. PEARSON: So, noted.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, I had a lot of questions about the Wailuku Water Company but I guess that's kind of a moot point right now if it's not on the table. Maybe, I just was wondering if, you know, you had intended to give the money to Wailuku Water Company or it would stay within the County's purview to then go make the maintenance and repairs?

MR. PEARSON: I think I can answer that one, you know, the purchase of course and whatever the purchase is it might be bifurcated where they purchase the land, this is example, I don't know what exactly, but they might bifurcate and purchase the land by the State let's say and the ditch system by the County. Of course, that purchase, whatever the amount of that is, that money of course would go to Wailuku Water Company. Anything beyond that if there's any maintenance issues I would assume that that would be under the County's purview once they purchased it. There's been discussion of...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, would we have gotten the amount of our investment into the maintenance and repairs off the purchase price of the system in the long run?

MR. PEARSON: Likely not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh okay. Anyway, okay moving on. You know, with the Mayor suggesting no increase in water rate fees and I think, you know, the distribution of water use being different with tourism the way that it is right now and for the foreseeable future. I was wondering if you could briefly go over how that's going to affect your operations. Wastewater said that they are seeing more usage in different areas of the island and, you know, if we're not getting quite as much usage if, you know, people, the resorts aren't full to capacity as what they usually have been how will that affect your guy's operation here coupled with the no increase in user fees?

MR. PEARSON: Okay. Well, we have to deal with the no increase in user fees of course and that is going...and when we did this budget we were aware of that with the, when we calculated our revenue. So, that was part of our revenue calculations. I love your other question about where the water's going to go now with this change due to COVID and I have talked to Eric Nakagawa and he did mention to me that it seems like the sewer flows are going up but what's going on with water. So, I checked with our plant operations, the guys that do the pumps and the wells and so forth and with our treatment plant and I don't have a lot of data yet, but I have data for January, February, and March from 2018, '19 and this year 2020. And, you know, there's a lot of numbers from the different pumps and so forth and wells and treatment plants. But the bottom line is I'll just read you three numbers from March for '18, '19 and '20 and these numbers are Central and South Maui water usage combined, average use

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it's per day and this is in millions so, in March '18, 22.4 million gallons a day was used; in March '19, 23.4; and in March 2020, 23.0. So, you can see there's not much of a variation there. So, I think, I'm guessing there's a lot more use for you and your kids taking showers at home, using the water and of course your kid isn't drinking water and making, they're making lunches at the school. So, that's...we're gonna keep tracking these numbers and I think they'll start to show more variability as we move forward. See, there's the kid that's drinking water at home right there. So, anyway right now we don't have a real definitive use and of course, you know, our central system goes all the way from Waihee through Central Maui out to Makena so there's a big variation of uses and population.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, my other question when you said that you knew that the water rates were not gonna be increasing when you made the budget I don't understand why all the other departments factored in an increase in water delivery fees then. Were they not aware that your user rates weren't gonna increase? You guys operate in silos? Nobody told them? Or they just were possibly anticipating more usage? A lot of the rates or the water rate line items went up a lot.

MR. PEARSON: Bell's ringing. I can't answer that but we were, I think we might have changed it, you know, as we were working on the budget this changed so they might not have known --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. PEARSON: --that at the outset.

MS. KAU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Okay.

MR. PEARSON: We had time to change it before we got it up.

MS. KAU: We had projected an increase initially.

MR. PEARSON: Yeah. Initially...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. PEARSON: Sorry about the bell, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Water Department, for being here. One of the testifiers this morning as we talked about earlier from some of the Members was from the watershed and I'm wondering with the budget cuts that you talked about, are you planning on cutting back the watershed amounts?

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MR. PEARSON: Yes. We're cutting back...there was a small proposed increase of about 230,000 from '20 to '21. So, that's gonna be not increased and in addition to that we're cutting about 10 percent of the '21 appropriations which is about 260,000 for a total of about a half a million in cuts for the total watershed program.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, God. 'Cause they play such a valuable part of our total ecosystem and, but I understand because you're self-funded right is that why?

MS. KAU: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And there's no other way of...are you mandated--I'm sorry I don't know this--by a percentage that you need to only allocate...sorry.

MR. PEARSON: We're not mandated, but we try to look at like common practice and there's been two different...one or two different ways of looking at common practice and so we're a little bit under on one and we're a little bit over on the other. So, we don't want to stray too far from where we are now.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, the total amount is 260,000. Is that what you said? Or did you say half a million?

MR. PEARSON: Total amount of cuts is about a half a million. About 230 that we're not going to increase it proposed and then 260 that we're reducing. I guess you'd say we're reducing the 2020 numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you on that. And I think you might have answered this before. So, you are planning on installing smart meters?

MS. KAU: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: Yes. Definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: On Page 596 as it was relationship to Member Lee's budget allocation from last year. That's good, I hope you're doing it Upcountry. Just kidding.

MR. PEARSON: Yeah. It's gonna be a five-year program or so. It's gonna end up being Countywide, you know, including Molokai. So, I...we're we have the consultant or the contractor on board but we haven't got them moving due to this COVID and we have 3 million existing now that we've begun to encumber and we're looking at another 2 million in this FY '21 to encumber for the same process.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Excellent. Right 'cause we're gonna, that's a, that'll be an operational change overall.

MS. KAU: . . .(inaudible). . .

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MR. PEARSON: Excuse me, I was corrected this FY '21 is 3 million and FY '20 was 2 million. I'm sorry. I didn't hear your question.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that's fine, thanks for the clarification. And last is overall question. So, how has COVID-19 impacted your Department? 'Cause you're an essential. So, how has it impacted?

MR. PEARSON: I don't think you have enough time in your question time to answer that. It's slowed down our progress, it's diverted our efforts to, replying to COVID issues both downstairs at the EOC Emergency Operations Center and working with the Mayor and the issues there. We're helping out when we can with the Mayor providing vehicles and so forth. We're limiting our...we're having some staff work from home, there's a lot of issues and our production is slowing down somewhat. We're trying to still get consultants and contractors out here, you know, from O`ahu or Big Island because we consider that essential so we're creating forms and so forth to allow them to get through the airports. We're...the day that we sent someone over from Maui to Molokai to do water sampling was the day, the day before is when they found out about the hits at friendly isle. So, we're kind of hesitant to send someone outside of Molokai into Molokai, but it worked out fine and we, you know, we kept it low profile but it's affecting us every darn day and of course the obvious thing is the revenues reduced, but we're not going to, you know, come down on these customers 'cause there's obvious reasons why they're not paying their bill. We expect to get the full payment but we're gonna work on payment plans and try to be as, you know, supportive and helpful as we can. So, that's the bigger issues.

MS. KAU: But operationally we're still repairing leaks, we're still responding to trouble calls, et cetera that, you know, we haven't missed a beat there. We're not compromising any standards that need to be met.

MR. PEARSON: Yeah. That's true and testing also of course we're still we need to meet the requirements of Department of Health. We're doing our sampling, we're doing our testing, water quality is fine. COVID virus from all I know does not live in water as long as you have chlorination 'cause chlorination will eliminate the pest which the virus is considered a pest officially. So, your water is safe, it's good quality water to drink, I'll throw out a little advertisement in here. It's important that people know that and should have faith in their water.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. And before I call on Pro Temp Kama I just wanted to make a quick correction that we did receive the responses from the Department of Water. My apologies, we received it on April 6<sup>th</sup>. So, I just I didn't scroll high enough up in Legistar, but if you look on Granicus it's item 66. And I want to also give a shout out to Tammy and Yvette for consolidating a lot of the items that were on Granicus, we're well over 110 items and now we're down to 69. So, it's a lot easier to find things on Granicus in the items list. So, mahalo to our Staff for working

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so hard and, you know, even overtime if necessary. Okay. So, Pro Temp Kama, are you ready?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Ready, Chair. Thank you. So, Mr. Pearson, thank you for being here. So, this is my question, very simple. I would just like you to tell me what is your number one priority in your Administration, Operations and CIP?

MR. PEARSON: A simple question, I can give you a simple answer. Source.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Can you elaborate on that? And you have four minutes.

MR. PEARSON: Gladly. Okay. We have source issues actually throughout the island. West Maui we're, actually we would have been out to bid, but thank you, Members, for doing a...working on a budget amendment for it, to move it into Fiscal 2020. We're ready to develop a well that's above Mahinahina Treatment Plant that'll provide an additional approximately 1 million gallons a day. In the 2020 Budget we also have a consultant in line to locate at least two more wells to offset the loss of water that's going to stay in the stream at the Kanaha in West Maui, Kanaha, excuse me, in West Maui. Beyond that in the future budgets we're going to include additional wells on the west side. For Central Maui in this year's budget it may be cut, but right now in this year's budget we have a half a million dollars to begin efforts to work on the consent decree that came about around 2003 under Mayor Arakawa's Administration. It has a lot of requirements to get water from the East Maui side. So, the first step is cost benefit analysis so we're having some money in this budget to address that because sooner or later we're gonna need the water from the south side...east side excuse me. For closer to home on the Central Maui we've increased based on the wording of the immediate agreement that came up through CWRM we've increased the production at the `Iao Treatment Plant up to a maximum of 3.2 million gallons a day. Where right now or prior the request for an existing permit was 1.7 so we're going from 1.7 to 3.2 million gallons a day when we can treat that much. That's one increase in source in Central Maui. We're looking to develop a well in partnership with the State, we'll get a portion of that well that's in Maluhia area. The State is looking at developing Pulehunui so therefore we're gonna work with them on that and share some of that source if we get it that's a good well. I think that's it for Central and West Maui. Upcountry we're finishing the development of the Po`okela B, it's gonna be considered more of a backup but there's still additional source that's available. I guess it isn't additional source, it's a back-up. Then we're going to look with additional wells Upcountry. There's one well that the State is developing there that we're working with that we're gonna share source with if that well comes to fruition and they're beginning the exploratory well phase for the State on Haleakalā Ranch lands just above Makawao. That's about it as far as the current issues with source. Hāna is, I think is doing fine, there's not much growth there and we have adequate source in the Hāna area. Molokai we're looking at additional well, it's a little ways away, we got information now from USGS on their study. So, we're looking at a well somewhere near the Kualapu`u area right now, but that's a little ways away, but again Molokai doesn't, isn't a fast growing community so our source is adequate.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, in your administrative budget, your operations budget, and you CIP they're all the same priorities? Source?

MR. PEARSON: We are, I guess you just asked me what my priority was so I picked source, that's our main priority.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Chair, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay. Okay. So, Director, in your 5 percent or 5 million proposed reduction, would you need to propose a decrease in water rates or since you're self-funded how would you achieve the balance of expenditures and revenue generated?

MR. PEARSON: Of course, you would assume that because of this virus we're gonna have a reduction in revenue. So, we're gonna do this reduction in expenditures. Hopefully...and well as I said earlier we're gonna look and track our pretty much assumed reduction in revenues and then we'll see where we are. So, this is 5 million reduction in revenues and it may...we could have a reduction in as much as a million dollars a month so of course that would be five months. We don't know that of course yet because we're not there. So, we're...this is I guess is just a starting point. So, we're going to keep, you know, we'll make this cut for sure and then track revenues and if revenues drop greater then we're gonna have to make additional cuts or look, you know, at different funding to meet our expenditures.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. I think this might end up being a larger discussion than now, but for water rates in Appendix B, Page 46 Department of Water Supply Water Fund. It says water service charges to single-family dwellings, single family and accessory dwelling with 5/8 inch meters monthly and it has rates from zero to 5,000 and then over 35,000 gallons. And then below there's water service charges to all other general water consumers and it only goes up to, the rates only go up to over 15,000. Is there a reason that the all other general water consumers doesn't also have a rate for over 35,000 gallons per month?

MS. KAU: It's general water...

MS. HO: Yes. The general...one of the reasons we have the single family 5/8 inch meters, a good portion of our customers are in that category and they were...want them to conserve. So, once they go over the 35,000 gallons then the prices go up and we're encouraging conservation in that category. The general categories include everybody else from hotels to condominiums, everybody else who's not the other three categories which is ag and non-potable and temporary are the three categories. So, when this was done through a rate study and this was one way that it was suggested that we, you know, set up rates like this to encourage conservation in the large majority of our customers who are the 5/8 inch single-family users.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, do many families...single-family dwellings use more than 35,000 gallons a month?

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MS. HO: It depends on the location. If you look at Kihei or Wailea areas yes I would say there are quite a few families who use more consumption than that. But a normal family would not usually go over the 35,000 gallons.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right they usually don't even go over 15,000 gallons, the average family. I'm pretty sure my household does not. So, I heard you say that we want to encourage conservation with single-family dwellings. Would we not want to encourage conservation with hotels and resorts?

MS. HO: Yes. We would also like to encourage conservation with hotels and resorts but think a lot of their consumption is greater than the 15,000 gallons. So, they are already paying the, like the third tier in single family. So, a lot of hotels have the larger, the very large bills.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right and so, they use a whole lot of water and we don't want them sucking up all of our aquifers with their green lawns, you know, water features, lots of flushing toilets and lots of showers. And, you know, and I've stayed at a hotel where it didn't have a pressure control and so the amount of water that was coming out in, you know, during the shower I couldn't even turn down the pressure. It was just far more than I needed in my shower and I was just, that was just one unit using that excessive amount of water. I would love to see...I mean I don't know how old that rate study is, but I would love to see another rate here for above 35,000 and it's the same, single-family dwellings and all other water consumers are the same exact rates for zero 5,000 at \$2.05, at 5,000 to 15,000 at \$3.90 and it just kinda it's crazy to me that we would charge our residents and our single-family dwellings the same amount as a commercial entity. I would think that commercial entities would have to pay a little bit more than our families. But my time is up. Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I kind of wanted to follow up because I had the same questions as Member Hokama about the Wailuku Water Company and I didn't think we had already approved that. But I was just a little bit concerned about, Mr. Pearson, your comment about needing money to get information on maintenance and cost because, you know, my experience and I've been involved in negotiations of multi-million-dollar facilities but you get that information under a NDA, you don't have to pay for it if you're looking at purchasing something. And our previous Council had asked for that information, we weren't able to get all that information so I think maybe...and we do we did have an NDA under the previous Mayor. So, I would just...can you clarify by what you meant by needing that 500,000 to get the information on what the maintenance costs would be?

MR. PEARSON: Maybe I either misspoke or misunderstood. What...the point is that we don't really know right now what we're purchasing. And so, I'd like, you know, I think in the best world we would get this information prior to purchase so you know what you're buying and --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Right.

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MR. PEARSON: --that, that's the correct way to do it. But as of this minute we don't have that information and we don't know what amount of money we need to spend on evaluating the condition or doing repairs. So, I think I said it's kind of a guess.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: Hopefully, we'll get a better, you know, hopefully the Mayor's Office will work with Wailuku Water to get, you know, much more information prior to purchase and that will...

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, you were...so, yeah so you were expecting to use that 500,000 to evaluate the information once we get it not to pay them to give it to us?

MR. PEARSON: Correct. Correct.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: That was not, that water was not, that dollar amount was not going to Wailuku Water Company. No.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Okay. I just wanted to make sure because, you know, we've been trying to get that information we just haven't been able to get it. They haven't really been that forthcoming. So, that was my only concern is that before we move forward that we get that information, you know, before we spend money. So, that was...that's all the questions I have, Chair.

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: I appreciate all the previous questions from our colleagues.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just dovetailing off of Member Sugimura's question about the watershed grant reductions. So, for clarifications your projected the 2021 proposed budgets for the grants you're gonna return it back to Fiscal Year 2020 numbers and then you're gonna take...decrease another 10 percent from the 2020 numbers?

MR. PEARSON: That's correct. That's a good way to put it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And...

MR. PEARSON: And we sat down...we sat down with Eva, you know, 'cause it's not an across the board, it's a...she tried to evaluate where it would be better to cut some and not cut as much. She looked at the different watersheds and they're not cut straight



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across the board. They're cut where Eva felt more cuts could take place or less cuts should take place. So, she prioritized the watershed, specific watershed cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Can we get that numbers from Eva?

MR. PEARSON: Of course.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: If it's not like...

MR. PEARSON: Yes.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: This is Eva. Director, do you want me to go through the amounts?

MR. PEARSON: I think they don't have a lot time so let's just give them the...

MS. KAU: We'll submit it in writing.

MR. PEARSON: Yeah. We'll show you...we'll show them the numbers that, you know, you provided to us to make the cuts.

MS. KAU: I have that.

MR. PEARSON: Yeah we have it.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then, Eva, was the, I guess the grantees informed of this prior, not yet?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: I have given them a heads-up that there may be cuts up to what the Director just explained knowing that this could change so they're made aware.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. That's all, Chair. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just the one quick question related to Budget Details Page 19-12 water admin program, computer services. The 75,000 for cellular fees for meter readings. Is that related to the implementation of the, I guess the smart meters that you plan on doing?

MS. HO: Correct.

MS. KAU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: ...*(inaudible)*... Okay.

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MS. KAU: It is, Member Molina.

MR. PEARSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right thank you. Other than that I have no other questions, but thank you for your responses and I appreciate your proposals for your 5 percent reduction. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have no questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Member Paltin? No, Member Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. Director, thank you for you and your staff's responses to the Members' questions, I appreciate it. One thing that I did want to chat about and 'cause I think you have a great opportunity at this point especially with our people being stay in home orders is maybe how you can maybe market drinking County potable water as a smart way to one, get your water needs and stop using plastics. And I think you've got the data on your side, I mean even if we say \$5 a case for bottled water, yeah six cases plus or minus 3.2 gallons per case that's about 19 gallons for 30 bucks. For 30 bucks to the County instead of 19 gallons you could get 5,000 gallons of potable water, you would be paying at \$2.05 per 1,000 for 5,000 gallons and that would also include your \$19.80 water meter charge for the month. So, 5,000 gallons versus 19 gallons I think we have a bargain, it's clean, it's safe, it's cheaper, we're not using plastics. That should be one of your biggest marketing sales for using and drinking County water. Is this something you guys can do?

MR. PEARSON: Member Hokama, can I bring you a form that you can sign where we can use you as our advertising for our water system? I'll have the form up to your office by Friday. I appreciate that. I'm having a hard time selling this to my own wife. But I agree with you a 100 percent the water is fantastic water and they should never be drinking out of bottles and even beside the plastic issue. I, of course I agree with you a 1,000 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. No well I'm just a cheap guide, Director, you know, 5,000 gallons versus 19 I don't need to go back to school to figure that one out.

MR. PEARSON: I'll bring the approval form for you this week so we get you on TV. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. And again, I appreciate any updates because the sewer and water consumption by the regions have been intriguing me with the South Maui, Central and West Maui numbers. I can understand because of the visitor implant...I mean inventory plant not having no visitors it affects their usage numbers, but the residential numbers on the Central and south side I'm very intrigued with those

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increases. So, any other trends that you foresee? We hope you would share that with us please Director.

MR. PEARSON: Okay. I will do so and I think one of the other glitches in these numbers that I've shown you that don't show much of a change is a lot of the water use is irrigation. So, the hotels are of course they're not operating but they're still irrigating so there's still a lot of water use unfortunately at the hotels. But yeah I can, you know, I'm getting this information at least monthly or sooner so I can find a way to share it with Council.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Director. And thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just found the answers and I'm stoked I did. My question is a follow-up to question number 7. I see that the increases only one grand and I understand the travel to Molokai, but it's, the proposed amount is 137,930 and you said year to date that you've only spent 36,914 for Fiscal Year '20. Is that correct? But the Fiscal Year '20 adopted allows for 136,930 for travel so I was wondering if you could explain that to me? Seems like you might need I think like 40,000 or half of the 137,000 amount. Unless they're staying on Molokai for like months and need per diem or I don't know. Am I not understanding something correctly?

MR. PEARSON: I think you're understanding it correctly. I think that we have been budgeting just a greater amount of travel than we have used and due to the pandemic I'm sure we're gonna travel less. So, we can look at those numbers more closely. We just have to ensure that we have travel to Molokai as I mentioned earlier. But yeah there's some I guess fudge there where we can look at reducing that number.

MS. KAU: As well as the fact that all of the travel, you know, since January has ceased. So, all of the --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

MS. KAU: --scheduled for training and what not has ceased. So, that was fairly substantial, you know, we had intended to...there were many conferences and training that had not occurred so, there was, you know, substantial savings in first quarter of this year.

MR. PEARSON: Okay, so, the point is...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I understand...actual travel fund for 2018 and 2019 was 60,000, 50,000 and yet in your areas of cutting I don't see travel as an area of cutting and we don't know, you know, the extent and length of this pandemic so I would have imagined that would have been a first area to cut.

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MS. KAU: Quite frankly, Member, we were looking at areas where we could make fairly large cuts. If we cut more deeply of course we'll look at this line item as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, for me I prefer to cut here rather than our watersheds personally. That would be my choice. Because I think that we need to continue to fund our watersheds and in the long run cuts may end up hurting us more if we don't keep a handle on these invasive species, if we don't continue our efforts as we've seen with the coqui frogs situation and like that. But, you know, I just got into the answers, I was having some technical problems and I really appreciate that you provided your answers ahead of time. I wish I would have been diligent in looking through all the material and know I would have scrutinized it a little bit more. So, that's all the questions I have and thank you so much for providing the answers.

MR. PEARSON: You're welcome.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I just...Director, as you were talking about answering Member Kama's question about what is your top priority and you said source. Are all...you kind of rattled it all off in the top of your heads working diligently on this. So, is that CBS-2299? On the...in the CIPs where you listed all these Countywide upgrades and replacements?

MR. PEARSON: I don't have this...I don't have all the CBS memorized. Where are we, 29...2299?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Two, two, nine, nine and it's talking about 10.4 million for Fiscal Year 2021 and it has all these projects listed so I tried to match up what you we're saying just so we have reference to what you're talking about or what you mentioned. Or you could tell us in writing. If its...

MR. PEARSON: Yeah. Let me just...let me just the items I discussed I can list where there in this budget or the 2020 Budget. I can do that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. It looks like...okay. Thank you, it looks like it was in this one, this item. No other questions. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I have no other questions for the Department of Water. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay. I have just a couple more questions. Director, when was that water rates study conducted?

MS. HO: The last water rate study was 2013 and by the way we're starting on another water rate study right now.

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MR. PEARSON: Thirteen?

MS. KAU: Twenty thirteen.

MS. HO: Twenty thirteen was the last one. And then we're doing one currently, we just encumbered it in the 2020 Budget. So, we're working on getting the data to the consultant right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then do you expect it to be completed by next calendar year?

MS. HO: Yes. We're expecting it hopefully by...I think it's June or August and then we will bring it to Council also when we get it.

MR. PEARSON: This June?

MS. HO: Yes. So, I'm thinking probably in the fall we'll have it.

MR. PEARSON: The fall of 2020 it should be complete --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: --for Council to look at.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Got it.

MR. PEARSON: Hopefully.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right, mahalo. Okay. And then what would be the impact if you know off hand of adding the 35,000 gallons or more rate to the all other general water consumers?

MS. HO: Let's...I will pull out that study 'cause there's a reason that they do not put it greater than that and I will send you the reason why we do not in a written response.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Mahalo, Ms. Ho.

MR. PEARSON: But of course, Chair, you know, things change so we'll have to see what the new study, there may be, and we'll make a point of discussing your concern as we go through the new study. So, we're not just going to drop it after we give you an answer.

MS. HO: Right. Correct.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Pearson, I appreciate that. And then my last set of questions is regarding the watershed grants. In Member Sugimura's Committee we discussed covering those watershed grants with General Fund because it shouldn't be only the responsibility of water rate payers to ensure that we continue

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to have a healthy aquifer. And so, I don't know if it would be a percentage of general funds or if it would be all of general funds but I would like to get a recommendation from the Department on how Council can help with that. I would prefer not to reduce the grant funding for our watershed organizations.

MR. PEARSON: Oh. Okay. Let's...let me get with Eva and give some type of written recommendation to you. And, you know, of course we support funding from other sources, we're not going to, you know, look away at that. But we're just trying to do our best to wait where we make cuts and still, you know, provide services and of course I know watershed is very important in our minds too but we looked at that as getting the job done but still doing some cuts. So, let me work with Eva and get you a written recommendation this week.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. And I know the Council...we discussed it in our Water Committee and I remember many if not most of the Members supported that effort because we really want to help the Water Department with that burden, it shouldn't again be on the water rate payers to carry that burden alone. You know, we all benefit from aquifer recharge and a healthy aquifer. So, I think that's all of our kuleana to ensure that those who are doing the work to remove invasive species whether it's, you know, pigs up in the mountains that are wallowing and destroying plants or Himalayan ginger and other fauna that are making it impossible for the plants that are effective in recharging an aquifer like `ōhi`a trees and koa trees. We want to see more of those types of plants up in our watersheds so that we can continue to have a healthy amount of water especially with our growing population.

MR. PEARSON: Agreed.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. So, those are all my questions. And we have one priority proposal for the Water Department and it's from me. My proposal comes from a meeting that we had on Molokai. When we had the PSLU and EDB meeting on Molokai we discussed from Public Works not funding a project that would have built a berm to divert drain water from Kaunakakai Town into an unhealthy...I can't even remember what the word is right now, but basically, like directly into the ocean. So, I talked about it at that meeting and the idea was that we could have a pump truck that would help to remove some of that drain water since we're, we... County would not be paying what \$3 million for that project. So, \$250,000 for a pump truck that would help with the drainage problem in Kaunakakai Town and as sea level rises the pump truck would be able to move with us. And so, it wouldn't be stationary like the proposed construction of the berm would have been which eventually would have been underwater with sea level rise. So, \$250,000 for a pump truck on Molokai. That's my priority proposal. And I'll ask Director if they have any comments.

MR. PEARSON: You mentioned that when you met on Molokai on this topic you met with Public Works, were you with Public Works Department? Were they at the meeting?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. Public Works was not able to come to Molokai. I think Deputy Director had just received his...they just had their baby and so they were on

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Maui and we had Deputy Director on the phone with us and I met with them prior to going to Molokai. And I let them know that that project wasn't something that the community really supported because for the amount of money...it was like a 20-year-old project and it just wasn't worth the amount of money that would...the County would have spent. It would have been over \$4 million total for something that...

MR. PEARSON: Is the Deputy Director...excuse me.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

MR. PEARSON: Excuse me. Did the Deputy Director recommend that the Department of Water Supply buy this pump truck? Because the reason I ask that question it seems like it falls more under the purview of Public Works 'cause it's, you know, it's stream water, raw water that is not part of the Department of Water Supply's really responsibility not just on Molokai but, you know, our mission. So, I was just in a way I was just joking if the Deputy Director said well have Water Supply buy the truck. So, it seems like it would...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, no. Deputy Director did not recommend that.

MR. PEARSON: I'm kind of joking of course, but it seems to me that it does seem to fall more under the Public Works Department than it would under Department of Water Supply. But that's just my quick view of it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...oh go ahead, Deputy Director.

MS. KAU: I apologize. We would not normally purchase that type of equipment, we wouldn't use it in our operations.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay. My understanding is there already is one pump truck for the Water Department here on Molokai and that when there are...when there is flooding in Kaunakakai that Public Works borrows the Water Department's truck to help alleviate some of the flooding.

MR. PEARSON: I know...I can't answer that, but I know that Public Works and Water Supply especially on Molokai work close together, I think their baseyards are right there, but I could...let me follow up more on what we have in stock, you know, on the island now and I can follow up later with you on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then if not maybe, maybe it'll be a proposal for under Public Works instead of the Water Department.

MS. KAU: Yeah. That makes more sense. Thanks.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then Water Department would borrow from Public Works when they need it? I know the departments on Molokai they work together a lot and, you know, they really resource pool here.

MR. PEARSON: It seems more logical, but maybe we do have a pump truck there but I can't answer that, I don't know off hand.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director Yoshimura?

MS. YOSHIMURA: So, the truck does belong to Public Works, not the Water Department. And we'll work with Public Works on getting another truck if that's what it is.

MR. PEARSON: I think she's requesting that?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Yes. So, the...but the trucks that currently on island is under Public Works.

MR. PEARSON: Thank you. I didn't...okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director.

MR. PEARSON: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Members, questions on the proposal. Committee Vice-Chair King and then Pro Temp Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KING: No. Just I guess we're dealing with Public Works now. But the one that they have is not sufficient I'm assuming so that's why they need a second one for this operation?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. And I think it's older too.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. No questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Pro Temp Kama and Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No questions, we'll wait to hear from Public Works I guess, sounds like wrong department.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Paltin?



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks, Chair. I just was wondering what capacity you were looking at or if you had one?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Let's see. I'll get back to you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I completely support the watershed idea because, you know, private sources use the same aquifer.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: None on your request, Chair, and General Fund - I've, that's something the Council wants then we gotta be Countywide and include Lānaʻi too. We pay General Fund.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And, Member Sinenci? Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. No questions. I'm supportive of continued environmental protection. I think it's a great way to keep people employed. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. We have one last priority proposal from Member Hokama, but it doesn't fall under water. So, if there aren't any questions or comments for the Water Department I'll thank everyone from the Department for joining us either in person or online. Any last questions or comments, Member Sugimura? Are you waving? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm waving goodbye. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: Appreciate the efforts, thank you for the time. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director, Deputy Director, and Ms. Ho.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

MR. PEARSON: Okay. Bye.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Taomoto. Mahalo. Aloha. Okay. Oh. Are you taking to us? Ms. Kau? Were you talking to us? Oh okay. Sorry I muted you. Okay. I'm gonna mute you guys again. Okay. Our last priority proposal is from Member Hokama, it's for Open Space, Natural Cultural Resources and Scenic Views Preservation Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Say, Chair, thank you and that was pretty good play on words when you said I was going to be under water. Not quite yet, but hopefully we'll get those ag lands under water. Anyway, my request is about again Lānaʻi doing its part in the areas of food sustainability and promoting agricultural entrepreneurship. So, Members, I'm...you've supported me in the past for a million dollars, I'm looking at if we have the resources another million so that we can hopefully buy more than a 100 acres of ag land on Lānaʻi that would support our independent agriculturalists, our farmers, those that are not on Mr. Ellison's Pulama payroll but nonetheless an important part of our community that offers independent employment and again ability to do their own business activities. We are currently looking at the areas that those farmers are currently farming which is off Kaunalapau Highway and the Lānaʻi Airport intersection. It abuts the State highway system, connects right by highway where there's water, power and a sewer line that the County provides for the area. And so, that's my suggestion for how Lānaʻi can do its part in food sustainability, supporting agriculture development as well as reducing the impact like Maui island our sole survivor is just the hotel. And right now, I have a whole island in need. Thank you, Chair.

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Hokama. The previous monies that you were talking about, is that already in farming?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: You know, monies we still is in place. We had started discussions with Pulama Lānaʻi to work out a negotiable purchase and then, you know, we got lagged with the change of Administration and then with the COVID situation we've stopped discussions. But the Lānaʻi component has asked me to continue to pursue it. Right now, they're a big component on the island of trying to provide sufficient produce and food supplies since our wholesalers on Oʻahu is not fulfilling our market's orders for shipment to Lānaʻi. So, let's say they order five pallets of produce they'll get maybe two pallets and that's...so the food...the freight supply chain is great it's just the food supply chain has not been assisting us well at all. So, thanks for that question.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Yeah. That's good information, but you do feel like you have if you double the amount of land space that you have enough farmers and people who can actually farm all that land?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yes. And we particularly looking at two sites. One is by that airport intersection as I mentioned and one is below the existing city going along

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Manele Road. It provides us with two different microclimates that I've been told by the farmers can assist us in produce varieties and being able to maintain the soil and have very healthy balance.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. All right no further questions. I support all food security efforts.

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

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes. I'm looking. There's some other items in Open Space Fund so this would just oh it's already listed in Appendix A for Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Number 3.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yes. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Okay. Supportive. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good proposal. No questions, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Molina.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Support. No questions.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, my question would be has an appraisal already been done and are we the sole funder of this?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: We've done some general assessments, Ms. Paltin. So, thanks for the question. Again, what I've used from experience is just a general ballpark figure of \$20,000 per agricultural improved lot and again I say improved

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because it's been farmed, there is a utilities infrastructure adjacent to the property. So, I believe that \$20,000 an acre is a reasonable amount to...for the landowner to be compensated fairly. And what was the second part of your question, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there any kind of mapping chains are we the, the County the sole funder and we would retain the ownership?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah. Thanks. So, yeah currently the County would be the sole funder for the acquisition of the land and the County would retain ownership. And that is what I would be proposing. I don't have a problem the County provide the infrastructure, but all of our farmers that would like to participate is willing to fund and go get private sector financing for their personal agricultural businesses which I support that they go and get their own private funding for the business sector besides the County funding everything. I don't see us as the funder of businesses, I see us a funder of an infrastructure facility that those private entities or non-profits can then qualify for private bank loans. So, the State is willing to participate as far as supporting to underwrite the cost of agriculture water and so Lāna`i we just have a basic portable water rate at this time. So, the State is willing to help give agriculture support for the water.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh. I support this, good project. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay. And I don't have any questions right now. Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chair, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That was...mahalo, Member Hokama. And yes, I fully support more food security for all of our islands. Okay. So, those were all of the Members' priority proposals so we went through all of that. And that was our last department so it's 12:35 and I want to do a couple things before we adjourn. One is I wanted to make sure everyone knew what departments we received written responses back from so far. So, --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --we've received written responses...oh, Member Paltin?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering too like, you know how you said our Staff rearranged it so that there's not a hundred, I was wondering if you could briefly go over how we find it 'cause when I was trying to look for it I wasn't sure and then when I tried to open it I guess because of the volume of information in the thing it takes like five minutes to open. And so, I was wondering if you could just or somebody could e-mail or whatever, go over how it's arranged so that when we open it we know what it is, we're not just opening it find out what it is. If that makes sense?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. So, one of the things that Staff has helped us with is consolidating all the correspondence from the Members. When you submitted all of your questions for the departments because I didn't ask for them to be all in one document and you could submit it in multiple documents that meant that there was about like 10 documents per Member so there was about 90 documents from all the Members with questions for the departments. And so, I asked Staff to put all of those together into one file so that instead of having 90 different documents with questions for the different departments it's now all under Councilmembers' questions to the Departments due March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. So, all of that is under one and that really helped to shorten the list that we have right now. Another thing that Staff is working on is putting all of the correspondence to and from the departments into one PDF as they did with the Councilmembers' questions to departments. So, all correspondence to and from the departments will go under one Granicus item that will be, you know, water correspondence and all of that will be under one file so it'll be easier to find. But for now, it's...so for example Item 66 Correspondence to Water Supply on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>, and response on April 14<sup>th</sup>, so that's one. So, if you see a correspondence from the Department then that's the responses more than likely from the Department. So, that's how you'll find it right now. So, Item 57 for example correspondence to, so that's the questions that I transmitted to Finance so correspondence to Finance April 2<sup>nd</sup> and response April 13<sup>th</sup>. So, that's how you'll find the one from Finance. Okay?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. I...I think I was having a problem because I didn't refresh because it was saying error 410 unknown code. So, I think if anyone is having that problem make sure you refresh your page.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay. Okay. All right, so if you're having that problem then just refresh. But how it's titled right now is correspondence to the department and then from the department on whatever, you know, April whatever date. So, that's how you'll find the ones from Finance, Mayor's Office, OCS, Planning Department, Liquor Control, Department of Environmental Management, Prosecuting Attorneys, Corporation Counsel, Police, Water and Department of Housing and Human Concerns. So, those are all the written responses that we've received and it's posted to Granicus and we expect to be receiving the rest this week so that Members can go through what the departments have proposed as their 5 percent cut so that we'll be better prepared for next week starting Monday. Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I was just wondering if you could, well actually I wanted to ask if you could send your last instructions before the end of yesterday? I think you sent it and I thought I saw it, but my staff can't find it. But I

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think it's amongst all the myriad of stuff that they have. So, if could do that I'd appreciate it. Thank you. Why are you shaking your head, Keani?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 'Cause no, I didn't send it yet.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Oh. I thought you did. I thought I was reading it somewhere. But thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. I said I would send it...I was...I'm still editing and formatting it as an official memo to the Members. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah. Chair, yeah thanks I was looking for that memo too because you said there might be a trick in it. So, I was looking for it for your little hint.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And a treat.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, I know the memo didn't come in 'cause I was keeping an eye out for it. But could you just go over that list you just read again 'cause I was trying to take notes and you read through it pretty quickly, the list of all the departments that have seen written responses? I know you started with Finance and the Mayor's Office and I'm trying to...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Finance, Mayor, OCS, you know what I'll just, I can just shoot you over an e-mail.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, we know what to look for because I, yeah I can't write that fast I'm trying...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah I won't waste everyone's time reading the list, I'll just shoot it over in an informal e-mail.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There will be no trick or treat in that e-mail it'll just be the list.

VICE-CHAIR KING: No formal no format needed. No formal format.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No format. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And...yeah. And then last thing. So, since we are not being provided the salary amounts for E/Ps I'll need to ask that any Member that has listed expansion positions and I think that was Member Paltin and Committee Vice-Chair King with MEMA and with Public Works, the utility person. I'll need to ask that any Member that has listed expansion positions as one of your priorities to please do your

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best to research other municipalities or any other resources that would have an average salary amount for these positions and e-mail that to the EDB Committee by the end of today with what amount you would like to put in. We are...so, not just for salaries but also for fringe because we'll have to add that to Countywide for whatever proposed positions that is listed in your priority proposal. And if it ends up not being enough for the department requesting the expansion position, that department can come ask this Committee for a budget amendment later in the year as we've done so in the past. And --

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --done all...we've tried our best, I know Committee Vice-Chair King has really been trying hard to get that information from MEMA.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, I have a...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah. I have a question like maybe what we could do is go back to the last budget where that was listed and just use those numbers since that's the most recent numbers we have for those E/P, you know, when they use to give them to us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, there was - they're all... . . .(inaudible). . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: I know they're outdated but they won't give us an updated number. I mean I kind of thought that that was still a question for the Administration that they were gonna go back and look at whether they could give those numbers to us, you know, without using names and everything. So, but if they're not...if we don't have them and we need to put some figures in there, you know, my first thought is go back to the most recent budget, it was 2019. I think it was 2019 and just pull those figures out of there, and, you know, then like you said they come back and ask for more if that's not enough.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Some of us...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not all of us have those details. Budget Director Yoshimura? Oh. Hold on I'll unmute you. Okay. Ms. Yoshimura?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, for the positions that the Members are thinking of adding, if you want to shoot me over a list I can give you the entry level salaries and then you can use that as your guide for whatever increase or whatever amount you want to use in the Fiscal Year '21 Budget. So, if you just give me the title I can send you over the SR and the starting salary.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, I think that was Committee Vice-Chair King and Member Paltin. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, for my position I'd also like to ask for the range of steps because Deputy Director Molina had said that a utility person is a difficult position to fill because that they need to know all these all around type of thing and I have received word that there is a capable candidate within the Public Works baseyard that meets those minimum qualifications but they would not be coming in at an entry level step. And so, if you want me to be most accurate I'd like to know the range of steps as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Yoshimura?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Okay. So, it's like in that case if it's a utility worker, if it's a UPW employee or unit...bargaining unit one then there's pretty much just one step. But if there's a Utility Worker I, II or III I can give you that classification as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes please.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. If you can e-mail Ms. Yoshimura, Member Paltin. Okay. Committee Vice-Chair King?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah. And so, do we have...I don't, I'm sorry I don't have the book in front of me for this meeting today, but, you know, for the departments that have requested expansion positions do we have the figures on those per position or are they just all lumped together as one? Like Planning asked for six expansion positions. Are they, Ms. Yoshimura, are we gonna be able to get those figures? 'Cause we have to make decisions on the other expansion positions that were proposed by the departments as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Yoshimura?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, if the department asks for an expansion position we have listed those separately in the Budget Details. So, for instance Planning Department on Page 14-7 of the Budget Details the six positions that have been requested are listed individually by title, the SR steps, the SR and steps is provided and the amount of the salary for eight months.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.



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MS. YOSHIMURA: So, if...you could also use that as a guide.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay. Members, any other comments or questions? Okay. All right. Oh I'm sorry. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The April 17<sup>th</sup> public hearing in the evening. Can you go over what it is that people are...what it is?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. It's a public hearing on the budget. So, it's not specifically for --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --you know, like RPT like real property tax. The RPT public hearing will be the following week. But so, for this one it's just it can be RPT but it's not exclusive to RPT.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The whole, everything people can testify on anything within the whole budget?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. And I...oh and, Member Paltin, I did follow up with Finance Director Teruya and he will be providing us some of...so, I'm not sure if you're talking...yesterday you requested the binder so I don't know if you're talking about the booklet with all the charts and the graphs that we usually get or if you're talking about the thick binder that...yeah okay, okay, okay. So, the booklet. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: He's gonna provide it?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I asked for a condensed version of that, so just the summaries. They're doing a lot of...yeah. You, okay. I didn't want them to be working...

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, no hard copy?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This section is the important part really.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Which part is...which part?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Revenues derived using rates and summary by land classes. What, Page 1 through 17 from last year?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then not, not the next portion, selected real property statistics.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. Yeah. So, those are the pages that I requested for us so that their Department doesn't have to work overtime on creating that booklet for us. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, no book, book?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...yeah, he can submit it to us electronically since it'll be our condensed version. Okay. And then, Member Sinenci? Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: My question was just about tomorrow's schedule. Sorry, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just a ka'ina, what are you planning on doing? If, if we're at that point, Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. I'm sorry. What are...you're talking about tomorrow?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. No, tomorrow you're gonna be working on your proposed reductions for the departments so that we'll be prepared for Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So, no meetings tomorrow?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll send out what I read last night. So, you'll have the rest of this afternoon and tomorrow to prepare and if...I know there were a bunch of priority proposals that the Members had already requested to withdraw. So, if you have any other priority proposals that you'd like to withdraw you can also send, you know, you can e-mail me and then I'll just make note of that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Fine. Okay. And Director Teruya is going over and above right now and I really want to send our appreciation to him but he will get us hard copies similar to last year. Yeah. Lots of applause and appreciation to him and his hardworking Department. I asked him not to, but he insists on being of service to this Committee and so, Director Teruya, thank you so much. We really

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appreciate you. Okay. I saw other hands. Member Molina, you had a question? Okay, and then Member...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, I'm sorry, Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Hui, Madam Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. I did have a question. Actually, just was kind of dovetailing Member Sinenci's question about procedurally tomorrow. So, we work on our cuts and as far as all the... 'cause I'm kind of waiting for, you know, all of the departments to get into recommendations and it'll give me sort of a head start. So, and so Friday we don't have a Council meeting? Or it's just a Budget Meeting?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have a Council meeting at 9:00.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then we'll be receiving the certification from Director Teruya at 1:00 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And whenever we finish with our Council meeting will be when we finish and then we'll have our Budget Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Okay. Just...yeah. All right so, I just wanted to get that straightened out. Okay. So, we'll start with Council, then Budget after and then Mr. Teruya at one o'clock and then the evening public hearing. Okay. Great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: All right. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I don't know what time we're gonna finish with Council meeting, but we'll just we'll break, receive the certification if we need to and then go back into Council meeting if we weren't, you know, finished.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. Let's see, Pro Temp Kama and then Member Sugimura and then...oh, Chair Lee, did you want say something real quick about that?

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. We will be done early after the, you know, for the Council meeting we'll be done early because I will not ask for any questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Pro Temp Kama, Member Sugimura, and then Committee Vice-Chair King.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Even if Chair Lee doesn't ask for questions, I'm sure people will comment. So, my question is so if Mr. Teruya is going to be able to make the booklets and they're hard copies, so we pick them up where?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Let's see. I will get back to you on that, but I believe in your trays like how you picked up the budget books on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor. But I'll confirm that with you all as soon as I get confirmation on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you confirm when too?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I will. Okay. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah those were kind of related to my question because then I'm gonna have to drive down the hill to pick it up, but will it also be available online? We just print it from home. I mean the whole book. I guess is what he's proposing now versus the first several pages.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll follow up with you on that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. And thank you, I see you sent the letter to Budget Director asking for as you concluded yesterday, asking for the compilation of priorities, possible reductions in A, B, C and CIP and it's due on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup>. So, I'm gonna guess that based upon the questions that were asked by all the Members that some of this...the 5 percent cut was also asked so it might be in those, the initial departmental responses to our compilation of questions. Is there any chance that it may come on Monday so we'll have it as we're going through our reductions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So, as I mentioned earlier it...we're gonna be starting with the Clerk's Office, OCS, Auditor. So, these are all our departments right? And then Corporation Counsel, MEMA, Department of Environmental Management. So, we can ask Budget Director Yoshimura, but the reason that it's requested on the 21<sup>st</sup> is because they asked for a five-day, five business day turnaround time. And so, I'm trying my best to be, you know, accommodating to the Department's request. If they are able to accommodate us in the order that, in the alphabetical order that'll we'll be taking them up then that's great. But, you know, I'm not gonna hold them to it because I requested it for the 21<sup>st</sup>. If they can, they can and if they cannot, you know, I'm not gonna hold them to that. Budget Director Yoshimura, I don't know if you'd like to comment on Member Sugimura's question?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, I did request all that information from the departments and we will try our best to get it to you as soon as possible, as well as the remaining questions

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from the departments. We'll try to get that to you. I think we have a few more departments that need to be submitted, but whatever information we have outstanding we will try to get to you as soon as possible before you start making decisions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, that...thank you very much. And thanks for doing this letter fast and timely, Budget Chair. So, I guess it's good if we're gonna go in alphabetical order it's all of our kuleana on the very beginning, so and I appreciate Traci Fujita 'cause she already submitted her 5 percent reductions and recommendations. That was the first one we saw. And I believe that the earlier alphabets were pretty clear about what they were proposing and the cuts. And I'll wait for the department to turn in from the 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you very much, Budget Director and Budget Chair.

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

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. No, I just wanted to ask about the...I thought that the public hearings for the two items that were, the three-person public hearings that we're requested were gonna be concurrent with this Friday's meeting, but I don't see them on there so I just wanted to ask, Chair Lee, is that in the works, that being scheduled those, the two public hearings that were called for in, I think in Mr. Molina's Committee?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

VICE-CHAIR KING: Those items came out of his Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I believe they're the Charter amendments.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Yeah

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Coming up --

VICE-CHAIR KING: That'll be a separate...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: --for this Friday.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh, so the public hearing...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The public hearing that Mr. Hokama requested.

VICE-CHAIR KING: So, that will be concurrent with our Council meeting?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. So, that, I was just wanted to check with that because that may keep us from getting done by noon. So, I think we all have to be prepared for a little break there at some point. Depending on how much testimony comes in.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Are you expecting a lot of testimony?

VICE-CHAIR KING: I don't know, I, every time I say no, I'm wrong so, you know, I don't want to project but I think we have to be prepared.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KING: I'm hoping not. I'm hoping not, that we're not gonna have two hours of testimony.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee and Committee Vice-Chair King. Any other questions or comment? Okay. Seeing none, so a recap, we're not...oh I'm sorry. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry. I just wanted to clarify Member King's question, is the Council meeting is also a public hearing for the Charter amendment public hearing. Is that correct?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Pardon me? What was that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Council meeting this Friday is also a public, two public hearings for the Charter amendment questions that Mr. Hokama...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then for the budget I was wondering if not everybody has it, shall we just go in alphabetical order and if we don't get the priorities response skip ahead to the next one that does have the priorities response? Is that your plan, Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Yeah that was what I was thinking we could do. I figured we'd cross that bridge when we get there, but we have that option because we're not requesting the departments to come before us so there's no schedule that we would have to stick to the way we did for this last week and a half. So, we would have that flexibility.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thumbs up on that plan.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Cool. Okay, Members, any other questions or comments? Mahalo for sticking it out to 1:04. Okay. So, we're gonna have the rest of today and tomorrow to go through what was sent to us. We have most of the departments' responses already so we can go through to see what next week will look like as far as reducing, potentially reducing some of the departments' budgets,

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proposed budgets by how much and what items. And again, please send me your, any priority proposals that you would like to withdraw and then I'll make note of that. Tomorrow's EDB meeting at nine o'clock is cancelled so that you'll have the day to work on this, and then we'll see each other on Friday at 9:00 for our Council meeting, 1:00 p.m. we'll receive certification and at 6:00 p.m. we'll have our Budget Public Hearing. And we're just gonna be listening to testimony, we're not gonna be deliberating Friday night at 6:00 p.m. And then on Monday we'll start with our...we'll start with going through the budget in alphabetical order to see where it is that we'll reduce and we'll take votes and make those hard decisions starting on Monday. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. You know, some of us voluntarily took out, reduced our priorities substantially. So, is there any possibility that we can make adjustments in its place? Okay. Let me put it this way. We're making decisions without having the full information, in other words we don't have the benefit of knowing certification yeah? We don't have that information. We have been dealing with people, departments who have been voluntarily trying to reduce their expenses. We've come up with a couple of departments where some grants may need to be increased. So, is there any possibility that we can make small adjustments to the budget besides reductions? Just asking.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, all right. So, we have Staff working on Exhibit "1" for us and they've been monitoring this whole, you know, week and a half while we're reviewing and have added, you know, when we had the Auditor and we had come to consensus on I think four things. We've made those adjustments already. I would like for us to be able to have Exhibit "1" each day, but we have to really be able to give Staff that time to work on it. If we would like that kind of flexibility then...yeah. Okay, I don't know. I will...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I give you an example?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are there any...okay, go ahead, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I'll give you an example. Okay. So, we just found out today, at least I did that Transportation may be receiving \$7 million yeah, in Federal funding. So, they get their money primarily from the Highway Fund so we can take that money and apply it to highway projects right? So, that if general funds were going to be used for highway projects we can remove that general funds and in its place use highway funds. So, these are the kinds of things where we need to be able to make adjustments so that in the end we can save the County millions of dollars and because we would put the Federal funds, you know, in places where the County funds were gonna be or State funds where the County funds were gonna be. You see what I'm saying? You know unfortunately, we couldn't have anticipated all of this earlier but of course I will comply with whatever your direction is because you did set it out in the beginning and we all agreed to it. So, I just put it out there for you to think about.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. And I think, you know, Director Pearson...I'm sorry not Pearson, Transportation Director Takamori.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Marc.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Did...yeah Marc, did tell us that they just received that information this morning, and they need to look at what the conditions and stipulations are regarding that funding and how it can be used. And so, I think they'll get back to us on, you know, what the limitations of that funding is, you know, as soon as possible. I don't know if Budget Director Yoshimura would have anything to add to that if you...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I just add something else?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Before she say's something.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I really believe that we're not gonna feel the brunt of this economic downturn until the next cycle. So, in this cycle I believe that we should provide as much money for shovel-ready projects as possible. But also begin to build a nest egg that we're gonna need for the next cycle. So, whatever monies we can pull back and use Federal funds or State funds or whatever I think whatever, in other words whatever emergency fund or rainy-day fund we have I think should be doubled. At least consider it to be doubled. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Ms. Yoshimura, did you want to comment on that?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, so, . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(inaudible)* . . . I'm sorry. Ms. Yoshimura?

MS. YOSHIMURA: As we receive grant funding we will take a look at what the use, most times it comes with specific uses so we'll look at that. And if we can actually move or shift things around in the budget then we can have further discussion on that. So, like the \$7 million that Director Takamori talked about this morning. I'm not sure what the funding can be used for, if it can be used to supplement our busses or our transit system then we can look at using the transit money for something else right. So, those are the things we can look at, but we need to know for sure first what the grant funds can and cannot be used for. So, we'll look into that and then have more information in the next few days. Thank you.

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



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VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. I agree with Chair Lee that we need to be flexible because I think there's more coming in too, I mean out of that 1.2 billion I've been told by our colleagues on, in the City and County of Honolulu that that's based on population. So, if they got \$384 million then we should be getting over \$60 million to our County and I don't know where...how much...who's making those decisions. I assume the Administration is negotiating which departments those go to. So, we need to have that information and we also don't know, we also don't have our RPT information until we decide what the rates are going to be. So, it may be higher than what the Mayor proposed, it may be lower, but because the revenue is a moving target I think we need to be a little bit flexible too.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair King. Okay, Members, any other questions or comments?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Move to adjourn.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I didn't have Ms. Yoshimura's e-mail so I just chatted, asked her what the fringe benefits for a BC-10 utility worker would be. Direct message chat. Is that acceptable?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll send you Ms. Yoshimura's e-mail address.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Okay, Members, any other questions or comments? Okay. So, we're clear on what this week will look like and then moving into next week. And I'll send --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --the memo out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --is the public...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh sorry. The Public Hearing for the Council meeting is on the Affordable Housing Charter amendment and the Managing Director Charter amendment?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Just double checking. Didn't want to say the wrong thing. Thank you. Last question. Pau.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay and then I'll also send over the list of written responses that we currently have received that is, that are, that is up on Granicus. And just a clarification when you send any adjustments to your priority proposals if you are wanting to withdraw any please e-mail that to EDB Committee. The edb.committee@mauicounty.us and you can CC me. And I guess we can consider Chair Lee's request and we can discuss it moving forward. Okay. Okay, Members...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Can I ask --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --for clarification, Chair? So, when you say you'll consider and discuss is it yes or no? You'll consider Chair Lee's suggestion.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Considering is not a yes or a no, it's considering.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: May I say one last thing?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: While you are considering this if I were in your place I wouldn't want the Members to start adding all kinds of different things in. So, because not at this late date. So, I would say, you know, limit the amount of things to be added and if you add you have to identify where that money's gonna come from. I think that would be fair. Just a thought.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay so, we'll figure it out how that could potentially work in the process. I'll have to meet with our team because our team's trying really hard to accommodate the Committee Members to make sure that we have all the information necessary so that we can make appropriate decisions moving forward and it's easiest when there's structure. But we're all as flexible as, you know, we can be but I guess we just have to know that some decisions will have, you know, consequences. So, if we're gonna add flexibility to the process then, you know, we may not get Exhibit "1," you know, starting, you know, each day, you know, so there's gonna have to be some give and take with what we decide in considering, you know, flexibility to the process. Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I think that when you consider, considering...when you consider anything it takes time, it takes a lot of dialogue between people so that it's clear to everybody what it is that we're considering before we make that decision. So, which means that if we decide that we want to be flexible and we are willing to be flexible because the consideration that leads to our own deliberations and our decision making is gonna be good and pure and clean then we need to be prepared to stay up long nights for a long period of time until we're done. And only because of the situation that we're in which makes it different than we normally did last year. So, I

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just...as you're considering that we have to consider what might occur also in terms of timing. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. And so, in those long nights we would also be incurring a lot of overtime for our Staff. And so, when we're wondering why we have to make adjustments for overtime in Account A for salaries and wages these kinds of decisions are what causes that. You know, so I just, you know, want Members to understand that there are impacts to these types of decisions.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And in the end I think is what we're gonna do and the decision we make will it be worth it? I think that's we always have to make sure that it is worth it, that what we're doing and what we're spending. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. I'm also trying my best to make sure that this process is fair to everyone and when we agree to a deadline that, you know, we're agreeing to that deadline and we're gonna stick to it and if we want to amend a proposed deadline and allow, you know, Members to have flexibility to what extent as Member Lee, Chair Lee was saying do we allow for flexibility. Now, do all Councilmembers, you know, have the ability to now switch out their priorities? Or only the Members who have already expressed the desire to withdraw some priority items? So, there's just a lot, like I said that's why it's not a yes or a no answer right now, it's something that I really have to think through to ensure fairness to all Councilmembers and to the public. Pro Temp Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: One last comment. Even if you happen to withdraw your priorities it doesn't necessarily mean that you have to substitute it with something else, all it could mean is, you know, I, after I've thought about it this doesn't have to go this year it can't wait another 12 months. And that's all, it doesn't, you don't have to have a substitute in place for it. Just know that what can you live without for the next 12 months. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Temp Kama. Okay, Member Paltin. Exhibit "1" is what our OCS team works on, it's a spreadsheet that has over a thousand lines of all the budget items. So, it's our budget in an Excel document and so as we make amendments to the Mayor's proposed budget then the adjustments are reflected on that spreadsheet so that we're able to track the amendments that we're making and what impact amendments have on the different funds and how that all works.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's because we didn't get the budget software yet?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So, we're working on that. Yeah. So, there's the budget module that we're looking at getting for the Budget Office and then there's like OpenGov that we want to be able to use to have real-time scenarios that we can track. Yeah. We're hoping that the software will be able to make the process a lot easier for everyone so that we won't have to do multiple entries but we'll be able to ensure that, you know, that all the information is accurate still on both sides, Administration and Council side. Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay, any other questions or

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comments? I should probably stop asking that question huh? Okay. It's 1:22 and I'll see you all on Friday at nine o'clock because once again our EDB Committee Meeting at 9:00 a.m., that was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled and we'll post that on our website as well that the meeting tomorrow has been cancelled. And I'll see you all on Friday. Okay. It's 1:23 on April 15<sup>th</sup> and the Economic Development and Budget Committee is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

**ADJOURN: 1:23 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**



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

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Transcribed by: Cheryl von Kugler

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CERTIFICATE

I, Cheryl von Kugler, 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020, in Kihei, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cheryl von Kugler", written over a horizontal line.

Cheryl von Kugler