

# HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

## MINUTES

June 4, 2020

### Online Only via BlueJeans Link

**CONVENE:** 1:32 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Riki Hokama, Chair  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

**STAFF:** Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst  
Rayna Yap, Committee Secretary

**ADMIN.:** Kathy Kaohu, County Clerk, Office of the County Clerk (HFC-31)  
James Krueger, Deputy County Clerk, Office of the County Clerk (HFC-31)  
Karen Arakawa, Economic Development Specialist, Office of Economic Development (HFC-15, HFC-35)  
Lori Ann Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns (HFC-15, HFC-35)  
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Faith Chase  
Wesley Lo, Hale Makua Health Services (HFC-15, HFC-35)

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

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CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Council's Committee on Healthy Families and Communities shall come to order. This is our regular meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. We have three items for discussion this afternoon, Members. And but before we do, we shall go through our attendance for the Committee. This afternoon, Vice-Chairman, Ms. Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha, Chair, nice to see our logo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Also joining us this afternoon is Committee Members Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha awakea, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha e. Next is Member...Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha, good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha e.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I'm so jealous of your haircut.

CHAIR HOKAMA: And next we have Mr. Molina as part of our Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good afternoon, Chairman and my fellow colleagues and everyone else in Maui County, from beautiful and sunny Makawao.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lucky you. Next is our Committee Member Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha mai kākou mai Maui Komohana.

CHAIR HOKAMA: `Ae, aloha e. And, of course, from Moloka`i, we have Ms. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha `auinala e, Chair Hokama.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha e. Okay. Thank you. This afternoon, we will provide testimony for anyone wishing to share comments with the Committee, have up to three minutes per item. We ask that you please share your name, if you represent an organization we ask you share that with us, and if you are a paid, professional lobbyist representing an interest or an entity we ask that you would also please share that information with the Committee. For those that will be providing testimony wait until you're called by our moderator who will be Lesley this afternoon and she will also be keeping, assisting us with time, every person will have an opportunity of up to three minutes and you will either hear the cow bell or myself say time's up. And then we'll have the Members ask questions for clarification and then we'll take the further discussion and review during the item itself. So, at this time do we have any testifiers?

MS. MILNER: No, Chair, there are no testifiers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Wow. We may be the first Committee to have no testifiers, but we will leave testimony open, Members, with no objections. I would like to at least provide additional time for those that may wish to share comment. So, I'll leave testimony for a while longer.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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**ITEM HFC-31: ELECTION BY MAIL SYSTEM (MISC)**

CHAIR HOKAMA: But we will move forward with the...okay...thank you. Members, we'll move forward at this time and with no objections I would like to take out of order HFC-31 under the heading of Election by Mail System. We'll ask...

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Members. At this time HFC-31 we have a communication of October 7, 2019, from the Deputy County Clerk, relating to election by mail system. And this afternoon with Ms. Kaohu our County Clerk we'll be asking for her comments on the status of the County of Maui to provide the election support as well as registration for our residents. So, at this time, Ms. Kaohu, are you ready to share some comments with the Committee please?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think you're muted, Kathy.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. I know Mr. Krueger is muted and can we assist please?

MS. MILNER: Kathy, I'm gonna go ahead and unmute you in case you're having issues on your end. It's not letting me unmute you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. We have Mr. Krueger assisting us also.

MS. MILNER: Yeah. James, you're muted on your end, I cannot unmute you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think he just went to help Kathy.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Good thing we voting by mail and not by device.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: At least they can't mute our ballot.

CHAIR HOKAMA: That's true. Mr. Krueger, hi. If Ms. Kaohu is unable if you could maybe start off with some comments and then the Clerk can join us please.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Yes. So, we have a brief presentation that we'd love to show you all if that'd be okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. KRUEGER: Perfect. Thank you. Let me just share my screen. Can everyone see my presentation okay? Oh. Sorry. Let me go back...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. It's on, it's visible at this time.

MR. KRUEGER: Great. Thank you. So, we just want to first thank the Committee for inviting us to come to the meeting today. We're just here to provide a brief update on

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the elections this year. So, as everyone knows or we're trying to make sure everybody knows this year the election will be conducted fully by mail. So, people can expect to receive their ballots in their mailbox. That will happen if you're a registered voter. That'll happen approximately 18 days before the day of election, you'll receive your ballot in the mail. What voting by mail also means is that there are no polling places. So, you will receive your ballot in the mail and to vote, you'll mail your ballot back or we have some other options for people, they can drop it off at a place of deposit or they'll be able to do same-day registration and vote at a Voter Service Center. So, this image up that I have up right now what people are receiving in the mail they'll get their envelope and inside of it there will be a ballot, their secrecy sleeve to put their ballot into, and then they'll put their secrecy sleeve into a return envelope and that's what people will send to us or drop off at a Voter Service Center or place of deposit. So, some cool things I can show you right now, this is the envelope that people will be receiving that contains their ballot and everything else. So, be on the lookout for this envelope with the pink on the side that's how you know that's your ballot. Then there'll be the return envelopes I wanted to highlight the back side of the return envelopes they'll be color coded orange for the primary and purple for the general. And what I wanted to show on this side is we really want to emphasize for people to make sure that they sign the return envelopes that's...the signature is the way that we verify that, that's their...that they voted...your signature is not tied to your vote, but it does make sure that we verify you only voted once. I also wanted to show off at this time the instructions that'll be included in your ballot packet as well, this is to help people to understand the process of how they can vote and, you know, make sure...so, we want to stress to everyone to read the instructions when they receive it so, you know, mark your ballot once you're done, seal it, seal it in your envelope and sign that envelope and then they can return it. There's also this set of instructions for the primary specifically. One common mistake we've seen in the past that voters make is that they do not pick their party on their ballots so, we want to stress that for people for the upcoming primary election is that you need to pick your party and then when you submit your selections your selections should be within only that party. That's except the County, the Council votes which are non-partisan so, everyone can vote into that. And then same thing OHA, OHA everybody can just vote in the OHA races. Also, we finalized, since the last time our office came before the Committee we've since finalized the voter's service centers and their locations and hours of operation. So, I'm able to provide the dates for you at this time. So, the Voter Service Centers open ten business days prior to the day of election from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday excluding Sundays. So, for the upcoming primary the first day the Voter Service Center will be open is July 27<sup>th</sup> and it'll be run through July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 7<sup>th</sup>. For the general it'll be October 20<sup>th</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Voter Service Centers will also be open on the day of election, but the hours are different. They will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the day of election. So, the primary is August 8<sup>th</sup> and the general is November 3<sup>rd</sup>. So, what people can do at Voter Service Centers, just to inform those who maybe haven't seen this presentation before, they...people will be able to deliver their mail-in ballots if they don't want to put it in the mail they can drop it off at a Voter Service Center. The Voter Service Center's also the place we'll be able to accommodate voters with special needs and it's also the locations at which we will be accommodating same day registration and voting. Since

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the last time we came before this Committee we've also finalized the locations of the Voter Service Centers and the places of deposit. So, the Voter Service Centers we have three of them in the County. One in Wailuku at the Velma McWayne Santos Community Center, one on Moloka'i at the Mitchell Pauole Community Center and then at that community center's conference room and then one on Lāna'i at the Police Station conference room. We've also finalized the places of deposit so, you can see here that we have 12 places of deposit which I'll show you in the next slide what to be on the lookout for, for these, but we tried to get as much coverage as we can on Maui island. So, we've tried to hit every...at least one in every district on the island. And for places of deposit, places of deposit is the technical term, but people can think of them as ballot drop boxes. This is what our drop box looks like, we actually received these boxes last week. So, we have them and we'll be setting them up for people to be on the lookout for. An easy way to remember that a lot of our fire stations will have drop boxes and a couple of our community centers. So, I just wanted to, you know, reemphasize some of the dates that we want people to be on the lookout for. So, for the primary the last day to register to vote is July 9<sup>th</sup>. Then people, registered voters can expect their ballots around July 21<sup>st</sup> then the Voter Service Center will open on July 27<sup>th</sup> and the primary is August 8<sup>th</sup>. And then for the general voter registration will end on October 5<sup>th</sup>. People can anticipate receiving their ballot packets on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Voter Service Centers open on October 20<sup>th</sup>, and the general election is on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. A couple of things I wanted to bring up is we've been in the middle of our signature capture card campaign. We want people...we've been receiving a lot of these in the mail already so, we've been...we've had a good response so far, but we want to continue emphasizing it is that registered voters should be receiving these yellow cards in their mail and what we want them to do is there's inside the card there's a location to put their signature and so what we want them to do is to sign it and then mail it back to us so that we can put that signature in our system so we can...we have an up-to-date signature on file when we receive their ballot that's what we'll be comparing it to. So, I just wanted to leave off with these couple of thoughts we want to really emphasize people that they can...that they should update your voter registration or if they're not registered we encourage people to register to vote at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) they can register there. People are also welcome to call us and we can help them. We also want people to send in their signature capture cards if they haven't done so already. Then once you're registered just be on the lookout for your ballot 18 days before the election, around there. If you don't get it exactly 18 days, you know, we don't want voters to panic, but if you notice that people around you, if your neighbors have received ballots and you haven't then we want to encourage people to call us and let us know and then we can make sure that, you know, if we need to reissue a ballot we can. You know, we just want to tell people, you know, don't wait you can vote, as soon as you get your ballot you can fill it out and mail it back to us. You can also drop it off at a place of deposit or visit a Voter Service Center. And then lastly here's our contact information for people, please call us if anyone has any questions 270-7749 or you can also e-mail us at [county.clerk@mauicounty.us](mailto:county.clerk@mauicounty.us). And that's my presentation. Thank you. We're available for questions.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Mr. Krueger, that was a very good update and much appreciated by the Committee. So, I assume that with the requirements of safety measures and everything else you had no problems as far as your initial deadline of nomination papers then? Things went well with communications and ability of interested parties to get documents and information from your office on a timely manner is how I was observing your operations. Was there any issues from your side that you may want to share with the Committee?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, no, I think, you know, so the nomination deadline was on June 2<sup>nd</sup> so that was a couple of days ago and it went very smoothly. You know, we were able to reach out to people, you know, we were following up in the month of May, following up with the folks that we could to kind of, you know, check on them make sure that the filing process, if they needed help, you know, we could help some folks view remotely, things like that, and I think a lot of that resulted in a very smooth process. So, nope everything went well. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Great. Before I ask Ms. Sugimura if she has a question just one thing yeah regarding this...election day, Mr. Krueger, you mentioned 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. So, there'll be someone to time stamp the ballot upon receipt so that there's no question about whether it made the deadline or not? Is that all squared away?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So, what it is, is we need to receive the ballot by 7:00 p.m. So, at 7:00 p.m. at all of our places that we can receive it, you know, we'll have people standing by, we have our procedures. You know, for example at the ballot boxes we'll intend to have people at all of the ballot boxes, they can be locked up. Come 7:00 p.m. they'll be locked up and then they'll be sent to our office for counting, for sorting and counting. Same thing with the Voter Service Centers, you know, there's some allowances for people who are in the building already in, at the service center at that time, but other than that yes things will be sealed up, 7:00 p.m. is the deadline. So, that is a good point too that I do want to stress is, you know, the law does not make allowances for being postmarked by 7:00 p.m. we need to have the ballot at 7:00 p.m. if we do not your vote will not be counted.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. And again yeah, Mr. Krueger and our Clerk, Ms. Kaohu, whatever we can do to get information out accurately, timely we are happy to support your efforts, Mr. Krueger. So, thank you very much.

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Sugimura, any questions for the Clerk's Office?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I just want to...good job, James and Kathy. Too bad...oh Kathy's not...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, she's here.

MS. KAOHU: I'm on.

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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah you can speak to us now huh. Okay. Good. So, I just wanted to be sure because I visited seniors before pre-COVID and got questions about, you know, voting and I don't know how you do a outreach to the kupuna, but are you planning on doing anything for them? More than mail? I mean as far as communicating with them about the mail-in procedures and voting? Kathy or James.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Ms. Madam Clerk?

MS. KAOHU: We had a number of outreach events scheduled and a big population of those events were for senior organizations and then we went into the whole COVID episode and so, we're just starting now to revisit and reschedule video conferencing opportunities with some organizations and we'll continue to do that. We're taking some ads out on radio and print as well as responding to any requests for interviews, anything to get the word out. But yes the senior population is an important population to make sure we capture because of their ingrained processing of how elections have gone, have been for them up to last year or the last election cycle. So, it's really important that we get through and they realize that the polling places are a thing of the past and now they will be voting in the comfort of their own homes or wherever they choose to vote. So, thank you for bringing that up, and if we can come back in July that would be awesome we can update you with other efforts. We did have our first community association meeting by remote and did a presentation for them and then hopefully some other community associations will be coming on board as well.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Kama, you have a question you'd like to ask Clerks?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I don't have a question for the Clerk's Office. I just thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and it was great, I liked it. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Ms. King, you have a question you would like to pose?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I do. Thank you, Chair. I had a couple questions. One is, is there something that's gonna go out that, to people that talks about what kinds of things might invalidate their ballot? You know, like when you talk about voting only for one party in the primary and things like that. Like...I want to make sure people know that how important it is and that if they don't follow...what instructions are there if they don't follow it that their vote will be invalidated?

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MS. KAOHU: I tried...this is Kathy from the Clerk's Office. I try and tag those things in every opportunity, presentation or article that I respond to. The two big ones are the signatures on the back of your return envelope and the other one is the cross-voting during the primary race. And Hawaii conducts a single party primary election to nominate their candidates to proceed on to the general election. And there are going to be instructions in the voter envelope packet, ballot packet that talks about the primary voting and how you pick a party and you vote that party. One of the benefits or the new things that Act 136 allows for regarding the absence of signatures on the return envelope is that if we get it back early we'll call the voter and let them know to come in to sign their envelope. If we get it back and the election is complete, it...the Act 136 now allows them five days following the close of election to come in, sign their envelope and have their votes counted. So, that's a new feature and we look forward to that because guarantee every election somebody forgets to sign and we use to have to invalidate those ballots just because the lack of the signature. So, now there's a little bit more opportunity to be able to capture those unsigned ballots.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And the signature card is not something that's required is it? To vote.

MS. KAOHU: No, it's not required, it won't invalidate your voter registration, it's just an update of signatures. It's also a way to...for us to update our records. I updated my signature, I sign two different ways sometimes so I was allowed to put two different signatures on the capture card. But yeah we'll definitely be looking at the sorting of our machine, if it identifies irregular signatures we'll definitely be manually assessing that and not leaving it to a machine to decide for us.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great. Chair, I had one more question if I can?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I just wanted to follow up on something that the Chair said about the timestamp. The timestamps I'm assuming are for you guys, you know, there's nothing...is there anything that voters will get...I mean how will we...is there anything that assures us that the ballot made it to you by, you know, that it's being counted. And if the answer's --

MS. KAOHU: There will...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --no, you know, I just wondered if there's anything that we should, you know, some kind of receipt or something?

MS. KAOHU: Chair? There will be...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Kaohu?



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MS. KAOHU: There will be like a tracking program on the Office of Election's website so you can enter your information as requested and it'll let you know that the date that we received --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh okay.

MS. KAOHU: --the return envelopes back.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Excellent.

MS. KAOHU: We are not gonna have timestamps per se at each collection site. So, it's gonna be just our officials closing up the boxes and collecting what's in the boxes by 7:00 p.m. If we're not hard and strong on the 7:00 p.m. then that opens up us to challenges and we don't...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No. I understand. But no, I think it's great to be able to track it because that'll give us a comfort level that our ballots have made it in are being counted. So, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much for that. Mr. Molina, any questions, sir?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes. Thank you very much, Chairman. Just with regards to the printout times, now that we're going with an all-mail voting system and as you know when we had the polls, some polls don't close and, you know, like for example on Oahu it happens a lot because of the delays on Oahu everybody else in the different counties we gotta wait. So, now with these...this mail-in ballot system do you anticipate...do you have any estimates as far as when the first printout would come out and the second and the third? Any goals or estimates you have at this time?

MS. KAOHU: I have no estimates. Our shifts are going into the wee hours of the morning by design. And the flip side of that is we will start processing returned ballots a week prior to the or a week and a half prior to the actual election day. So, we're hoping we're not gonna have a huge amount at the back end. We're gonna be day...nightly processing ballots, not counting and not tabulating but processing and opening envelopes. So, I am told that not to expect any early printouts this election, so. And those will come from Oahu's office of State Elections.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much 'cause as you can probably tell as the candidates you get a little antsy, you know, you get a little excited you want to hear those first printouts. So, inquiring minds want to know I guess yeah. But anyway thank you for the presentation.

MS. KAOHU: If we get updates we'll keep you posted.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Ms. Paltin, any questions?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had two questions. If folks call in your number 270-7749 and then they find out that they're not registered or their address isn't correct. Do they gotta come down and fix it or can they fix it over the phone or what is the process to fix it if they find out that they're not registered or there's incorrect information on file?

MS. KAOHU: Usually our process is to have them re-fill out the form and re-register. There's also voter registration capabilities on the Office of Election's website. So, we can mail them a registration form and then they'll mail it back to us. And/or they can fax us the information, there's just multiple ways that we're doing that, accommodating the requests.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. So, like you work on it as a case by case like if they don't have a computer or whatever?

MS. KAOHU: Yes. Yes. And the key thing is remember our phone number, call us, our staff is very competent, and courteous and no question is too hard for them. So, we'll help as much as we can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then my second question. Sorry. Must be a \_\_\_\_\_. Was if we did...I see Ms. Tsuhako offered her assistance in reaching the senior programs and I just was wondering if you were planning on taking her up on that?

MS. KAOHU: Most definitely. Yes. We did one presentation early in the season around February I want to say shortly after we took office to the West Maui Kaunoa Seniors. So, they're checked.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yay. Lucky thing we got to them early 'cause, you know, we're way out here. Right on. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, any questions you'd like to pose?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Yes. Okay. So, mahalo for your presentation, Deputy Clerk and County Clerk. For either Deputy Clerk or our Clerk, the information that you shared where the drop boxes will be and the Voter Service Centers, have they been mailed out to all the residents?

MS. KAOHU: Thank you, Chair. No. There's no direct mailing of those locations. What did occur, there was a required published proclamation that went out I believe May 15<sup>th</sup> in the main newspapers and it's also posted on the Office of Elections and the County Clerk's website. And I believe we transmitted a copy of the proclamation to the Committee and it's like a whole digest of all the open elections, all the seats and it's statewide of where all the Voter Service Centers and the hours will be not only for Maui County but for statewide as well as the drop boxes or places of deposit as they're being referred to.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, is...what is the strategy for getting that information out? Just that or is there more?

MS. KAOHU: We're including it in all of our interviews and our outreach as a resource of where folks can go to find that information. And if they don't have a computer we can mail a proclamation out to them. But we're not proactively mailing it to all of our voters at this point in time. We have over a 100,000 registered voters for Maui County. And I mean that's something we could look into if you think...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that because of the cost?

MS. KAOHU: Partly, mostly.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Have you considered like partnering with like a Department that does like mail things like water bills and stuff? . . .(inaudible). . .

MS. KAOHU: I'll check into that thank you for that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great.

MS. KAOHU: Maybe just a little tag line on the bottom of the bill.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. 'Cause they're mailing stuff anyway.

MS. KAOHU: Yeah. That's a good suggestion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then my last question is so, the messaging of no precinct polls. Has that been something that the office has been doing as far as communications? A couple of weeks ago I saw a letter to the editor in *The Maui News* asking politicians what their plan will be for social distancing at the voting polls. And so, that person obviously didn't realize that we were gonna be voting all by mail and not having any precinct polls.

MS. KAOHU: Yeah. I'm sure there's still a lot of folks that don't realize our polling places are a thing of the past, at least this election cycle. We're outreaching with that message as much as possible, and then we'll also look at including that message on the mailers if we can get in on some of the County mailers and the newsletters that go out.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MS. KAOHU: Even if it's a one-line blurb.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then sorry one last question. You mentioned in the presentation that oftentimes voters forget to indicate what party they're in so they don't select that. If they don't select what party, but they only vote in that party will that be okay, will that be valid or will that be...

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MS. KAOHU: It will be valid as long as there's no cross-voting. And if there is cross-voting only those particular contests won't be counted, So, let's say they do pick a party and they're 99 percent voting in that party except for one contest then that will be invalidated, but the other ones will still be counted.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And all the non-partisan ones will still be counted as well?

MS. KAOHU: Yes.. OHA, non-partisan, and what is the other one, oh yeah the OHA and the County non-partisan races.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Kaohu. Mahalo, Chair, mahalo for that leeway.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. No, no. By your questions, you know, I'm sure the community is getting better educated so I appreciate all the Members putting forth their questions it's very helpful. One thing, Ms. Kaohu, we know, you know, you're gonna need to make adjustments so, will there be such things as observers this election? Maybe...I guess election night...whatever is done at the election center which I guess for the County would be at our building, but is there adjustments to it and is there anything you'd like to share as it regards to the practice of observers and ensuring fairness in the process?

MS. KAOHU: Thank you, Chair. Yes, the observers play a very critical role in our counting center and they're...we've already got the slate marked up with the names and they, they come on board, they're the first to come on board and the last to leave. They...sorry.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No.

MS. KAOHU: They're present for the testing of all the equipment and the machines and they know all the different components and teams within the counting center. And in addition our...for our drop box or places of deposit collections there will be dual custody that will happen out in the field as well. So, one person will be serving as an observer position in that role. And then the of course...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. And...

MS. KAOHU: Sorry. Of course we're gonna exercise all the social distancing, masking, all the protocols will be observed in the Voting Service Center.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. No. Thank you for sharing that 'cause we support your efforts to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. So, again because of our...your unique responsibility, Madam Clerk, you also have the response of Kalaupapa votes also right for the State offices?

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MS. KAOHU: We do. And they're... Kalaupapa is the first one that went 100 percent mail back in 2002 I believe and they showed the rest of the state, they showed the rest of the state that it can be done and granted they're a smaller knit community so, once one person says something it goes through the whole community. But yeah, they get mailed their ballots and it comes back to us to process.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. And so on election night just so that this is ...*(inaudible)*. . . you ...*(inaudible)*. . .so that the for the rural \_\_\_\_ whether Hāna, Lāna`i or Moloka`i ...*(inaudible)*. . . then those ...*(inaudible)*. . . or regional boxes would then be picked up, shipped via air and take...brought to you as the Chief County Elections official for processing and tabulation. Is that correct, Ms. Madam Clerk?

MS. KAOHU: That's correct for Lāna`i and Moloka`i we have charter flights already secured to transport the ballots and equipment from those two islands back to us. For Hāna it's going to be the box...they don't have a Voter Service Center, but they'll have a place of deposit so those ballots will be driven back in to town. And it'll be a halfway point exchange.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you for that. So, okay, Members, just I'm gonna allow you one more question before we move on. So, just know that we will be bringing this item back and allow the Clerk to give us a further update come July prior to the primary elections so, I plan to defer this, but I'll ask the Committee once more...yes, Ms. Madam Clerk?

MS. KAOHU: Thank you. I just wanted to add a couple things with the completion of the candidate filing deadline, that was a big benchmark for us, but our next benchmark is going to be to get the machinery, the equipment and the systems up and running and receive training on them. This is the first year we're gonna be using a machine to open and sort envelopes and those vendors were supposed to be here about a month ago so, they've been waiting and they're probably gonna get an exemption to come in and uncrate the equipment and then train employees. Then we also what's new will have electronic pollbooks, we'll also have hard copies in the event of a electricity or a need to use them but we'll for the most part being using electronic pollbooks. So, right now we're processing or in the process of integrating voter registration information into these pollbooks. So, that'll be our next benchmark getting those up and running and staff training on that. And then I just wanted to add for Mr. Molina a lot of times Maui was not the reason that the results were being held up, it could have been another island.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for sharing that, we believe you 100 percent. Okay. Thank you for those comments, Kathy, Madam Clerk. Ms. Sugimura, any last question you wish to pose?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, I have a question, but I want to comment first. I'm so proud of Clerk and Deputy Clerk, I mean you guys seems like you've been there for years and I know it's been months. Thanks for making us all feel assured that the election will go smoothly and that we're in good hands. And I just want to shout out

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to your staff because I mean we all filed and saw them, you know, going through that process and they were very, very professional, please give them our aloha. And I know that, you know, Joyce and her gang are super good in the Clerk's Office so, want to thank them also. So, my question is this that I do know that on election day the last time and maybe this it won't happen anymore because things have changed but people who were trying to register same day on election were trying to call into the Clerk's Office but the lines were really busy was feedback that I got. But can you tell me how different this election will be versus what we saw for same-day voting on election day or what do you...

MS. KAOHU: Well, with Act 136 same-day voting and same-day registration and voting is still a feature and will be conducted at the Voter Service Center and to a degree here at the County building. There will be operators available to take incoming calls and a lot of times our times were split up, our operator times were split up between 34 precinct offices or precinct locations calling us plus the general public calling us. So, now it's all gonna be funneled and streamlined. So, hopefully we won't have as many or we'll have, we'll be able to accommodate. But we have a rollover phone system and we have plenty of...we're utilizing the experienced precinct workers to bring on board as part of our team so hopefully that'll help things.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Kama, any last question?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Just to...so, I wanted to know, you know, we're gonna have a lot of Charter amendments that's probably gonna go on the ballot in November so we want to be able to make sure that, that somehow that there's some education that goes along with some of those ballots. So, is that something that your office would do? And if it is when does that occur? And how does that occur?

MS. KAOHU: That is something we would do and I have to do little bit more research, but I'm pretty certain that a lot of it has to do with publishing in newspapers by requirements. And that would happen August...I'm sorry not August, October and that would, that would be the voter education part of the general election will be those Charter amendments.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: How many times do they have to be into published in the newspaper and how far and wide?

MS. KAOHU: Chair, would it be okay to respond in writing to that one after I find out?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure.

MS. KAOHU: It's not on the top of my head unless James knows.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Not a problem. Not a problem. Yeah. You can respond in writing 'cause we'd like to have it be accurate so, thank you for that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Kathy.

MS. KAOHU: Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. King, any last question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. I had one more question. Thank you, Chair. I just in reference to the where the drop boxes are. I know at one time we had talked about putting them somewhere inside where it could be locked up in case there was tendencies for vandalism, but so, I just wanted to find out now that you're having them at the fire stations, are they gonna be on the outside 'cause I would think that there would be a little bit inconvenient for people walking into the fire station all day long, but what's the intention there?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Kaohu?

MS. KAOHU: Thank you, Chair. They are going to be located outside and kind of close to the frontage of the facility, but not where it impairs their ability to respond quickly with their vehicles. We didn't want to have anything interrupting what their purpose is and they've identified two locations per station of their preference where they'd like us to install and...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And so, there's not gonna be like a person overseeing them obviously or are the fire stations taking responsibility of just kind of keeping an eye out for those?

MS. KAOHU: We tried to look for locations that had 24/7 surveillance of some sort and lighting. We are going to do some interim collections of the boxes and monitoring. There will be individuals monitoring kind of remotely in the different districts. There is one location that is a privately posted location and that's the Haiku Aloha Aina Center and their box will be indoors and locked every night at 7:00 a.m. [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And is that...so, the ones at the fire station is that gonna be able to . . . is that a drive-by? Are you going to . . . is there parking nearby so you can park and get out and . . .

MS. KAOHU: There will be a designated parking area, but it's not drive-by. None of the locations are really drive-by per se.

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much. Mr. Molina, any last question?

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, Mr. Chairman, not at this point. I appreciate Ms. Kaohu and Mr. Krueger and I echo Member Sugimura's comments about the staff just a great professional job. So, keep up the good work. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Ms. Paltin, any last question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. Just yeah, shout out to the staff, great job, miss you guys, and you guys make it sound so good fun I cannot wait till I not running and I can go volunteer.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, for the second opportunity. I actually have two questions.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The first one is would you mind repeating for those who do not have addresses because they do not have houses.

MS. KAOHU: Okay. So, last election there was an effort and the Help American Vote Act of 2010 I want to say allows for engagement of all people and for no addresses we are allowed to...we are...we do allow for folks to register to vote by describing the second driveway at Kanaha Beach Park entrance, on the south location entrance under the second tree by the bathroom. So, a descriptive, identifying residence regardless of whether it's a structure or not we'll accept that. One thing we are seeing as a barrier is we require Social Security numbers for the voter registration, a lot of them...and a place to deliver the ballot. So, if they did a postal general delivery which they could and it's a good option. They would need some form of identification in order to take the ballot out of the general delivery and that's another barrier that I'm seeing that they don't...it's a disconnect because they maybe don't have money to get a State ID. So, yeah, that's where that is right now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Kaohu. And my last question is regarding the Charter amendment ballot questions education. So, in the budget, former Clerk, Josiah, put in funding for mailer education. Did that remain in the budget or was that removed?

MS. KAOHU: I'm sure it's still in there because we didn't change the budget much.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. That's what I thought.

MS. KAOHU: So...okay. I'll go ahead and look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. KAOHU: And see how we can use those monies to reach the voters further.



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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Kaohu, really appreciate that. Aloha.

MS. KAOHU: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much. Okay, Members, the Chair's intent and of course the Clerk's request is that we defer this item because I'd like to ask the Clerks to return in a month or so to give us another update as we approach the primary election deadlines and see how we stand and what we can do to assist the Clerk's Office to get greater participation in this major act of democracy. So, Members, with no objections we'll defer Item 31.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Members. Item is deferred.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.**

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Kaohu and Mr. Krueger for a great update. We appreciate your time. Thank you.

MS. KAOHU: Mahalo.

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Members, we're going to . . . what are we going to do with no objections is I'd like bring up both HFC-15 and 35.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR HOKAMA: For your Chair, there is some areas of potential overlapping and I didn't want to deal with the technicalities of the discussion so, I'm gonna bring up both items at this time so in case we run over each other we won't have any issues. So, HFC-15 is regarding Opportunity Zones and HFC-35 is Hale Makua Master Planning and we have Mr. Lo, the Chief Executive Officer of Hale Makua. We have Ms. Tsuhako from our County Department. We also have Ms. Karen Arakawa will be speaking be able to speak on opportunities zone and we have Mr. Hopper from Corporation Counsel.

MS. MILNER: We might have some testifiers. We might have some testifiers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay.

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MS. MILNER: So, you may just want to do a general call.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Okay. So, since I did not and close testimony the Chair will at this time ask, is there anyone out there that would like to share comment before this Committee on any of our agenda items? Now is your time to make yourself aware and we'll be happy to provide you your opportunity. So, okay, anyone out there that would like to share testimony to this Committee please make yourself known and we'll provide you your opportunity. Ms. Milner, have you had any requests from your side?

MS. MILNER: Yes. Faith Chase would like to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Chase, you have three minutes. Why don't you share your comments please.

MS. CHASE: Good afternoon, Chair. Aloha, Council. I'm gonna give the shortest testimony that I've ever given. I'm having so much joy watching you guys conduct business. Thank you for all the hard work.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your comments. Is there anyone else that would like to share testimony with the Committee? Please make yourself known.

MS. MILNER: Chair, we have no further testifiers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Milner. Members, with no objections we'll close public testimony for today's meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. So ordered.

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

**ITEM HFC-15: OPPORTUNITY ZONES AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** (CC 19-124)

**ITEM HFC-35: HALE MAKUA MASTER PLANNING (DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS)** (MISC)

CHAIR HOKAMA: So, at this time what I'll do is first give Ms. Arakawa an opportunity to just give an opening statement regarding opportunity zones. Ms. Arakawa, if you would please share your comments with us at this time please? Is she on? Yes. Okay.

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MS. ARAKAWA: Unmuting now sorry. I had to...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Thank you, Karen. Yeah.

MS. ARAKAWA: Okay. It's great to be in your Committee presenting an update on the opportunity zone. Unfortunately, there's not much to update. We did have one project that is being planned and that's in Hali'imaile and they're gonna be doing workforce housing. So, they were open to having opportunity zone funds for their project. However, as of right now they haven't received any request to be a part of the project. They're using private funding, but they said they are still open and the information is...has been placed on the business development and support division website so that anybody who is interested in forming an opportunity zone fund and would be interested in being a part and investing in this particular project, all the information is on the website. So, this is all that we know of at this point. At this time we just still are kind of just educating people. Unfortunately, because of COVID, people haven't been reaching out. So, hopefully they'll . . . we'll start reaching out and spreading the word. But the good thing is as far as this particular project, it's moving forward and hopefully they'll be closing their escrow in October of 2020 and this is a workforce development project so, that is great.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. So, Ms. Arakawa, this project does it need to come before a Council Committee for either funding or approval? Whether it be the Affordable Housing Committee or the Budget Committee? Are you aware if there needs any County Council participation?

MS. ARAKAWA: So, he did indicate...I spoke with the developer, Howard Kihune, Jr. He said they have received all of their entitlements. So --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. ARAKAWA: --. . .*(inaudible)*. . . indicated. So, and I did let him know if he needs any help that we'd be...we're here to help him with his project.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. ARAKAWA: And I...he's also getting help from Lori and her team.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.. Thank you for that. Ms. Tsuhako, are you available to give any comments under this item regarding the project that Ms. Arakawa just shared with the Committee? Under opportunity zone projects.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are, the Department is familiar with this project that's being proposed for Hali'imaile. We've met several times with the development team. I've not spoken with the developer in particular about opportunity zones. We've talked with them strictly in, under the auspices of affordable housing development. So, we usually talk pretty regularly so, I'll be sure to ask them and see if there's any access that we can help them with. I know that there had been a request to maybe get

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some assistance with infrastructure costs because it's . . . the infrastructure's quite substantial for that project. So, we . . . I'll commit to following up with them and asking about that . . . about how we might help them get access to different funding sources for infrastructure. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah. Thank you and if you could respond in writing please, Director, so we have a record of following up on the item. So, thank you for that. So, on just what was presented, Members, we'll have a first round of questions then I'm gonna let Mr. Lo give some comment. So, Ms. Sugimura, you have any questions on what was shared at this time?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: You know, I'm gonna hold off until I can understand how all of this kind of pulls together, maybe after Mr. Lo presents 'cause I think he has a big part of the opportunity zone, I think from his previous presentation.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. I just wanted to ask you if you guys had any questions or clarification requirement as far as what Ms. Arakawa and Director Tsuhako gave us comment on, which was that project yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

CHAIR HOKAMA: This housing project. So, if you have no questions on that, you know, and again she's gonna respond in writing to the Committee on what is the tie in if anything to the opportunity zone. So, we'll get that in response. I do know that if there's money it'll have to go to EDB Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and if there is some kind of Code requirement then I'm sure Ms. Kama's Committee will have some kind of jurisdiction. So, I'll leave those Committee Chairs to handle their kuleana on those areas. Okay. So, you have nothing specific at this time, Ms. Sugimura? Okay that's fine. Just to change it up and fool all you guys I going backwards so, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, do you have a question at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member...Chair Hokama. I don't have any questions, but I do see Member Paltin eagerly raising her hand with a question.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. That's why I went backwards. So, she's gonna be after you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Mahalo, Chair. No questions at this time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering if Ms. Arakawa could tell us the name of the project? That...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ARAKAWA: Chair?

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Arakawa, if you would respond please.

MS. ARAKAWA: Okay. Thank you. So, the project name is Hoku`ula

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hoku`ula.

MS. ARAKAWA: And the developer's name is Aina Lani Pacific. Aina Lani Pacific.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you know, I mean not the TMK but like the address of where it is or where the development is proposed?

MS. ARAKAWA: Okay. Let's see. I don't have that information but I'll be happy to give you the TMK and other information in regards to that parcel that they are in contract to purchase.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Ms. Paltin, we'll follow up in writing so, that we have a record of the request for you and we'll await the written response from Ms. Arakawa.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thanks. I just was wondering --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --if the opportunity zones could be possibly used for the rehabilitation or renovation of Shiraishi Pool? If there was a funder?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Arakawa?

MS. ARAKAWA: Chair, I believe that, that portion where the Shiraishi pool is...okay I'm sorry...that's the Kahului Pool, I will check to see if it is in the enterprise zone, it may not be. I know it's in that area but it might fall just outside, but that's another item that I will...I'll double check...I'm so sorry, but I will double check on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you so much.

MS. ARAKAWA: No problem.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Yeah and we'll work with Ms. Arakawa and either get a copy of the boundary itself or any revisions to what is the zone, actual zone as precise as possible so that you folks can have good information. So, we'll forward that request, Ms. Paltin. Mr. Molina, sir, any questions you would like to ask at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Hi. Yeah, thank you, Chair. Just one quick question for Ms. Arakawa. You mentioned the infrastructure costs related to this project. Can you give us I guess a ballpark figure that was mentioned to you?

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Arakawa?

MS. ARAKAWA: Chair, so, the project cost is 92 million. I do not know what portion of that is slated for infrastructure costs.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. So, they never gave you a specific as far as what the...of that 92 million how much would be towards infrastructure. Okay. I guess if maybe we can get that information at a later point, Chairman, if possible? Just out of my curiosity since it relates to the opportunity zone funding yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure, sure yeah. We'll ask for those information, Mr. Molina, from the Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No problem. No problem. Ms. King, any question you may have?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Good to see you here, Karen. I was gonna ask actually for the map too because I...my understanding was it was mostly Wailuku so I was surprised to hear that Hali'imaile was part of the enterprise zone, but it would be good to see an overall map. But my question is, is it...is the Administration helping to connect some of the projects that are in the enterprise zones with potential investors or how is that working, I mean whose responsibility is it? If you come up with a project and you're in an enterprise...not enterprise I'm sorry, opportunity zone then is it the project's developer or managers that have to go out and seek the funders or is the Administration somehow involved in that?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Arakawa?

MS. ARAKAWA: So, the County Administration I believe has not been reaching out. However, the State... the State's role—so, that's the department, the business development and support division of DBEDT--they're tasked with the responsibility of marketing and getting the word out as to what kind of projects are there. Also, they're tasked with marketing to entice opportunity zone or funds...opportunity zone funds to look at some of the projects here in Hawai'i. Because the opportunity zone funds could be funds from outside of Hawai'i and I believe that's what they're looking for to see if there's investors on the Mainland who want to save and pay less taxes or not pay any capital gains for ten years to invest in Hawai'i properties.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. So, they have a list of investors that they deal with? At the State level? Do you know that?

MS. ARAKAWA: At this point they have just a couple of investors. In fact, did have...actually only recently there's been little bit more traction, more interest because of COVID. So, we are working with someone who is actually thinking who has an opportunity zone fund who's thinking of doing some investments here in Hawai'i possibly Maui.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: And what do you mean when you say opportunity zone fund? Because, you know, I think that's what kind of what gets people confused they think there's money out there in an opportunity zone fund and what I keep telling...and tell me if I'm wrong 'cause what I keep reminding people is that the opportunity zone gives a tax credit to investors. So, you're trying to attract investors for that tax credit. It's not like there's a pot of money that you could tap into and get a grant from. It's really about attracting investors and then investors get the credits. Is that correct?

MS. ARAKAWA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Just want to make sure what I'm telling people because I think people are under the impression that there's some kind of big grant fund called opportunity zone that they could apply for.

MS. ARAKAWA: So, Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: And that's a very good clarification, Ms. King. And yeah, Ms. Arakawa, yeah what, if you have additional information if you could share that because I think that is one of the big misconceptions or misunderstandings of how this thing supposed to work. We've helped provide under the Federal tax incentive program opportunity zones, but opportunity zones works on key basis that Ms. King shared is the need for private sector to reinvest and the Federal government's key component and to get the private guys involved was so that they could reinvest their unrealized capital gains, it was how to avoid certain taxes to be reinvested for community especially for low income and rural community's benefits. That was the whole key of this investment tool. So, I appreciate Ms. Arakawa's clarification of the State role, but my thing for the County role is if our private sector doesn't want to invest in our zones something has to be adjusted. Because it's not going to work until the private sector participates. This is a partnership and not just a County or governmental initiative, it cannot work.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And so, Chair...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, yeah that's my thing was that is I think people don't understand it enough and that's why it's hard to get investment. Because when you use the word opportunity zone fund it's people start thinking there's money out there, you know, free for the taking and they have to apply for it. But I think we need to focus, we need to keep reminding people that it's bringing in the investors to these projects in the depressed areas.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It's gonna help the community and then they're gonna get the tax credits so it helps them. So, if we can kind of keep ourselves focused that way we

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might be able to help move some of these projects along better and bring in the investors in. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. No, thank you, Ms. King. And I hope to use this Committee venue as another way to highlight those areas of need that we can support. So, I appreciate your comments. Ms. Kama, any question at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Not at this time, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Ms. Tsuhako, you have anything you want to add additionally on this subject at this time?

MS. TSUHAKE: No thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Lo, please if you would at this time give us an update on your project, the master planning and some of the things you found out regarding your health assessment study and any comments as in regards to your project and opportunity zones. We look forward to your comments.

MR. LO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, I guess I'm gonna sort of apologize in advance, we were coming to this Committee to give a quick update, a very short update. And then this morning I received the first draft of the health impact assessment. So, we have been madly reading it and are gonna try to give you a...just a quick over...or as best an overview as we can 'cause it is an extremely powerful and moving document. It's especially given the COVID situation it's a really interesting read and we're still trying to digest it and literally we were, Ms. Takitani Leahey who's on the phone, was madly working on PowerPoints for me this morning. I just want to quick comment before I get in...oh I'm sorry.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sorry to interrupt, Mr. Lo. Members, I've just verified with Committee Staff we have uploaded on Granicus Mr. Lo's presentation so if you could locate it you can help follow along with Mr. Lo. Mr. Lo, excuse me for the interruption so if you would continue please.

MR. LO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a quick comment about opportunity zones before we get started on the health impact assessment 'cause I think it relates to your previous discussion. So, a couple things, just random items. I do believe that the Shiraishi Pool is not in an opportunity zone. The line for the opportune...the Spreckelsville opportunity zone ends at Kamehameha. So, I think it sort of stops there 'cause I think like Hale Makua is like a block away from an opportunity zone so, I think that if I'm getting pools right. So, but one thing when we talk about opportunity zones I think Councilmember King and Council Chair or Committee Chair Hokama pointed out is it's kind of interesting on how you approach these opportunity zones and other types of funding. You do need the investors, but in order to get the investors you need to have the project and I think that's what attracts the investors more than just a pool of funds. If you remember back in early in the year maybe even longer we had several of the people trying to promote opportunity zones here they were called LISC, and Build



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Healthy Places Network and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and they were actually wanting to start a opportunity zone fund here or maybe that's incorrect, it's to do social impact investing and finding large institutions that would invest in social impact types of funding, which could be through opportunity zones or other things. So, I just want to remind everybody in my mind opportunity zones are just another tool in the tool kit and the idea is to find whatever funding we can to create a better solution for our communities and save all different aspects, you know, so again if we did a project with some County funding, some State funding, some private funding it would be probably cheaper for everybody and more holistic is the theory. So, with that I'm gonna go into the health impact assessment because the health impact assessment is really the first step towards getting at...and if I...can give me a second I'm gonna share my screen if I can do this right. I think you can see the...can you see my screen now?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can, Mr. Lo.

MR. LO: Okay. So, again this is, we'll try to do the best we can, we were still trying to digest this first draft, we don't have a final yet, it's gonna be an iterative process to finalize this, but again sort of the genesis of the health impact assessment is there was a resolution back in I think it was 2018 passed about the Kahului Community Center Park. And it was to the resolution basically was calling for the County and Hale Makua to try to master plan to provide health care facilities and services program for the elderly population of the County. Subsequent to that we were invited to a few events where we had a lot of the national foundations that were talking about social impacted investment in opportunity zones and as we talked to them they said is well, you know, in order to have a good project that's community minded and there's actually social impacts you really need to talk to the community. And the vehicle they all told us that we should start is not with a master plan but with a health impact assessment which is a, they basically try to look at the implications of, you know, health on a community and to show that there's been community involvement in the ideas and the plans for it. So, we decided to go down this path, it is sort of a newer path for the state of Hawai'i, there's only been a couple done in the state of Hawai'i that I'm aware of so. So, you know, again the plan was not to start with the master plan but to have this health impact assessment inform a master plan from the grassroots and we'll talk a little bit about the goals and the methodology a little bit later. So, for this health impact assessment, the research was conducted from December, 2019 to March, 2020. Then there was the disruption of COVID-19 which brought quite a bit of uncertainty to this. So, it's kind of complicated now because and just called out in the health impact assessment by the Islander Institute is that on one stretch of the imagination is a lot of the conversations occurred in a world that may never exist moving forward. But on the other hand although much has changed in the world the health impact assessment is about community values and practices that are deep in the core of its people in the island so, really, you know, it still should instruct how we plan our future. So, you know, they do call that out in there and there were some subsequent interviews after COVID-19 pandemic struck to sort of validate certain things that are going on in the community. I want to reiterate that this is, the health impact assessment is not a blueprint for a specific outcome, but it's

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actually a compilation of community conversations to help instruct any master plan. So, one of the interesting things they pointed out is the pandemic although it's been certainly a disaster for all of us, it did force some discussions and some decisions by our community and our nation. And so, it basically gave us a choice to choose between health and money and by closing the economy we chose health across the nation and in the state of Hawai'i and certainly on the island of Maui. So, I think that, you know, at least we have some information from the pandemic on, you know, what are...what is important to us. So, anyway I'm gonna move on here. Let's see so, although there's a health impact assessment it was very much instructed by something called a community health needs assessment that was done in 2018. In that I'm going to just talk briefly about it. It was an assessment across all islands, and it was a one-year project to assess community health and one of the conclusions of the community health needs assessment was that community health issues span all aspects of life, it talks about economics, talks about human relationships, education, land use, essentially everything which together forms the healthcare ecosystem and that is actually it's a shared experience endeavor, no single person or entity or industry can be responsible for improving community health, it has to be a shared kuleana. So, that was one of the major findings of that so I'm gonna just quickly talk about it in the next slide, but the health impact assessment was really just to, is a tool for community members to make decisions and define the health related impacts of any potential project, policy or plan. Okay so, the community health needs assessment, what they call the CHNA, I'm not gonna read all of these, but they identify 12 priorities for Maui and they were housing affordability, higher paying jobs, you know, stress and overworked, violence against women, visitor industry impacts so on and so forth. So, in your...in the PowerPoint we have highlighted the yellow areas, 8 of the 12 areas that actually this health impact assessment and some of our activities are talking about and I would argue that it's probably closer to 11 10 or 11 of the priorities that, you know, we really should be doing is being discussed in as we talk about the Kahului Community Center and this whole health impact assessment. Okay. So, the health impact assessment some of the goals and the methodology of this was to listen to community voices with Maui's kupuna at the center of the conversation, to learn about the community and, you know, understand all the health impacts and create dialog. So, real quickly they have talked to approximately 100 people as part of the conversation either one on one in small group settings. They have...when you get a chance...when we have a final report to read it is they wanted to make sure that there was a lot of respect and people were allowed to talk in small groups as opposed to a, you know, mass group setting 'cause they really valued the conversation and did not want to control or lead the conversation. The topics did include kupuna health, social determinants health and the community conditions in Central Maui. So that was sort of the methodology and the informants. So, some of the key findings and I'm gonna try rush through to allow for questions. One of their interesting things we read, you know, through again these first through reads of the document is they started talking about the dream, you know, what people do and what they dream about when they become retired and they're moving into, you know, the kupuna phase of their life and the dream is about that they would work hard, have savings and security through retirement and have a good life, start doing hobbies, traveling, spend time with families and the society would really honor them and

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et cetera. And unfortunately through conversations they found that the reality...that is not the reality, the dream, in fact the dream may be a little bit misguided. The reality for many of our kupuna is that family is there to support them, but not available to all of our kupuna. There's widespread financial insecurity, many of the kupuna either have to continue working just to be able to survive or they have to live on a fixed income and, you know, just deal with the stress of financial insecurity. It also talked about that, you know, the dream that we are so familiar with is not necessarily what everybody wants out of a good life and there isn't, there's not enough choice for what a good life is right now and that maybe we need to look for new paradigms. They do talk about kupuna stigma and neglect and a lot of this relates to that once they do not have status in a job or something that sometimes they are neglected and if they are...if they are not given the ability to contribute to society they become a little more helpless and hopeless. So, it talks about this in there and then it talks about traumatic life events I think there was a quote that was pretty moving is that I think somebody had said is that I worked hard and had everything set for my retirement and then he had a stroke and I think we all know about those types of situations around and that how it really somewhat tragic and, you know, kind of little bit emotional when you think about those types of things. So, that was kind of what they found is some of the realities that we need to deal with as a community around kupuna and kupuna care. Let's see...so, they determined in the study that the principles for healthy kupuna is that there needs to be foundations for kupuna and all kupuna should have a basic foundation for health. There needs to be a healthy ecosystem. Kupuna exist within the community health ecosystem and their health cannot be improved in a vacuum so in other words our community needs to be healthy for our kupuna to be healthy. We cannot just concentrate on the kupuna we need to concentrate on our whole community. In that integration all kupuna should be woven into the community as a whole. I think some of the examples were things like is well we don't just want to make a kupuna village because then there's no interaction, there's no intergenerational activities and then they are going to be segregated from community and again some of the plagues of aging are hopelessness, loneliness, and you know helplessness. These are some of the principles that they've identified would be for healthy kupuna. And then the study starts talking about, you know, potential health impacts as they could fit through these principles and they studied things like health care and other services, housing options, activities, workforce development, park facilities, transportation, food nutrition, relationships, caring of community and sense of place. And they tried to fit through this study, this...through the principles of what the principles for a healthy kupuna are. So, we started going through them, and I'm not gonna go through these next slides item by item but, you know, I think a few of them are notable, they talk about healthcare and other services is that, you know, frankly some of the things we need is for people to be able to be taken cared of at home so we need to expand home and community base services and, you know, get more trained workers to do that, use telehealth much like we are using in the COVID pandemic. And also, and I think this is very relevant to our current situation is that there needs to be more non-health social service and psychosocial issues because of the stress of the pandemic. You know, and so, you know, fortunately I think, you know, Hale Makua is definitely working on all these things but it is a strategy to I think all of us would prefer to be aged in place as

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opposed to be aged in an institution, you know, and bottom line. They talk about housing, they talk about maybe there's things like Hale Mahaolu, new kupuna housing, but they do talk that this needs to be integrated within the community it cannot just be isolating our kupuna. And there are things, there's opportunities with, you know, rehabilitation of homes, you know, I think we talked about in Kahului maybe, you know, we can find ways to do that and maybe there's more opportunity zones or other social impact funding that's available. Let's see, again real quickly, I think that the residents in the community are wanting to have more dedicated space to offer to kupuna. I think right now Kaunoa is, you know, out in Spreckelsville and there's nothing central really for them and there needs to be opportunities for, you know, resident counsel, volunteer operation and that seniors need to be involved in the Kahului Community Center Park planning process. Workforce, this is not only workforce for our, you know, our working-aged people but it's also for workforce for our kupunas and also providing for kupuna services. Just as an adjunct to this, I'm not sure if you folks saw *Hawai'i News Now* yesterday—just pulling it up on my phone—the article, it says, unemployment rate in Maui metro area is the highest in the nation at 35 percent. This was a *Hawai'i News Now* article yesterday, and that's from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. You know, I think that we have a growing kupuna population, we have a shrinking workforce, the healthcare workforce is a highest paying area and maybe this is some place that we can start revitalizing our economy through different programs which are a little less reliant on the visitor industry which is taking such a hit right now until it expands. So, you know, I think that there's some definitely some opportunities here as called out in this study. There's talks about park and that we need to find...either make Kahului Community Center continue its uses or if there's any displaced uses that there's current uses. We talked about the swimming pool and possible shared uses and we talked about, you know, walking paths I mean which already exist in the Kahului Community Center. There was a lot of discussion around transportation and the TOD efforts and the use of complete streets for safety reasons as well as for development reasons and increased capacity for transport. And a lot of food sustainability, you know, Meals on Wheels, home gardening, community gardens, farmers markets so on and so forth. And then, you know, we talked about other things relationship, pets and animal therapy so on and so forth. And again, I gonna start wind down a little bit here. So, in the report they actually go and they start listing the opportunities and challenges. I'm trying to look right now, they talk about impacts, community impacts, and \_\_\_\_\_ impacts so that we have a document that will inform us as we make decisions around the park. So, that's pretty much, you know, I don't want to bore you guys and talk too long on this thing. But the final, the sort of the next steps that are appear to be coming out of the thing is that the writers wanted to recognize that the health impact assessment is not a plan, it's a tool and, but is a framework to start having continue conservations and make sure that any activities in or development of this area is driven from our community and the grassroots. They are suggesting that we build a structure for continuous feedback and community leadership in this matter which would have a, you know, core planning team, they would have a plug in to the County departments and agency committees and have a venue for engagement and partnerships for community activities and they did even call out that this could include rapid response to the COVID-19 relief efforts for collaborative services around

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kupuna, but that is really taking into account the community and the community desires since we now have a, you know, upon once we complete this HIA perhaps a shared vision of what we want to do for Kahului. So, it's a little bit different methodology and I'm gonna stop right there and I think I've been talking too much. So, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Well, we definitely can't say you don't have passion for the subject, Mr. Lo. So, one thank you very much. And again, we need people like you with the passion and fire to move these type of projects forward so, thank you. Couple of things in hearing your comments and going through your presentation, Mr. Lo, and I'm glad that Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez sits on this Committee because it came across as part of the draft for me with surprisingly great opportunities for economic development and job creation within the health field component and how we can benefit not only Central Maui but the County. If we're willing to do the walk and reduce the dependency on the visitor industry, then the healthcare program, the technology sector, the educational component sector as well as agriculture that makes sense as far as the future investment and drivers for this County's economy. So, I appreciate what the validation you gave me that health can be a big economic driver. Before I open it up to the Committee though, one of the things I don't know if your consultants or advisors were able to give you comments, but one of my concerns in piecing together your comments and your draft study is at the end of the day though somebody has to pay the bill and the way I see the current demographic of the age pyramid I see us in an inverted pyramid structure that is financially unable to sustain the growth of the seniors or kupuna component of this County's community. And so, for me, I like the dream, but, you know—you showed us that slide, the dream and the reality—while the dream is with the base of the pyramid on the top and the narrow side on the bottom when we need to have that inverted and have the youth side be wide and the senior side smaller to be financially viable. So, any comments regarding that component?

MR. LO: Mr. Chair, yes. I do...I have some comments and again they're not completely well formed yet. But I think in regards to the how do we pay for it and how do we finance it, I think the key—and we're working on this path right now—is that as people age the people that stand the most to gain if we can take care of people at home are the healthcare insurance companies. And, you know, it's imperative upon us to come up with a different model that saves them money that they can share with us and still save money. It has to be...it cannot be a zero sum game. It has to be everybody wins and when you think about it the reason we talk about home and community based services if you're in a hospital you pay, you know, \$10, \$15, \$20,000 a day depending on what you're getting done. And if we could figure out ways to keep people healthy or keep them out of the hospital that saves the insurer money. And we are actually engaged and we have contacted all the major insurers, almost all the major insurers in the State of Hawai'i to do a pilot project with them, to actually start visiting people in their home and advocating for them at home and taking care of things for them at home which we hope will be really successful because we are thinking that if we can start working with kids right out of high school, start training them not only in necessarily healthcare careers but maybe social services types of career or nutrition

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services and we can intervene faster that that'll stop a few emergency room visits and then we, our premise with insurance companies are that well let's measure this and if we saved you money lets share this and, you know, then we can start paying our people better and having a new career. So, I think there's that part of it. The other part of it I think is how do we pay for it is, is just the workforce part is if we're not careful I think right now especially with the pandemic we have to create careers for them because we gotta keep people here otherwise we won't be able to provide that service. So, I think in this sort of this ecosystem right we gotta create the careers otherwise we won't be able to do it, and then it's sort of this the race to the bottom right it's a spiral down. So, you know, I think it's we need to solve this and figure this out. I don't know that there's a solution, but also I think that, that's why we need to look at things like telehealth and try to expand people's reach, you know, we can't sit and wait I, you know, we got 10 – 15 years till this happens and I don't want to be here ten years from now, and going when does the miracle happen, you know. We gotta start planning it now and but anyway that's my comment. I'm sorry for the long-winded speech.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, no, no, no. We appreciate your comments and your unique perspective, yeah coming from the State hospital system so we appreciate that. Ms. Sugimura, question for Mr. Lo or a comment regarding either the --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --investment component or...you have any questions at this time?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. So, yeah. I just want to say thank you. I went to the opportunity zone presentation at the MACC—I think you put that together with the Mayor—and learned about opportunity zone, and Karen Arakawa presented then. I was there when the resolution passed to create what you're doing with Hale Makua. Thank you, Mr. Hokama, and for that vision and understanding how we can pull the Kahului Community, you know, Center there along with Hale Makua. And also Andrew Aoki is that who put together your, the study that you're talking about today?

MR. LO: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: It is. He is super good too so, appreciate his outreach and the community and his assessment. I think a testament to seeing why this is important and understanding what Mr. Hokama just said about the pyramid is upside down unless if or is unless if we get this for payment is for you to have Ashley Takitani to be helping you because she definitely is the millennial that is gonna be carrying the load, that age group and how they think like Andrew Aoki so, I think you're putting the right pieces together. And I appreciate also that you are looking at TOD, the transit oriented development, I think it, I think it's more like in the Wailuku area, but I hope it can, you know, catch up to you. I'm not too sure how the TOD can, you know, be part of this, but I think it's important. I'm amazed, thank you for what you're doing, Wes, and you are creating a future for us, you know, as we see COVID-19 I can see how all the pieces are sort of like right timing with this economic disaster that we have

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going on nationally. I just want to say I support this. I don't have a question for you, I'm just more amazed how I've seen what you've done in two years I think so, any comments you can make.

MR. LO: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Lo?

MR. LO: Yeah. I...this is, it's been an evolution and actually it's the community that's driving this, I don't think it, credit should be taken by any individual. It's the whole purpose of the health impact assessment is to let the community drive this and just looking at it through the lens of kupuna. So, but thank you though I appreciate that and yes I am very grateful that I have Ashley working with me.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Kama, you have a question for Mr. Lo at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. Just one. You know, as I'm looking at your, at...and I have to agree I was just thinking to myself I can hardly wait till I become a kupuna so I can take advantage of this and I can hardly wait till this happens. But I will wait, I will be patient. But do you have a spiritual component attached to all of your planning and your principles? I always look for that because I think no matter what every person has some kind of a spiritual component to their lives that they address. So, have you guys addressed that in your planning?

MR. LO: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Lo?

MR. LO: So, we just go this report, I don't think that it was embedded in the actual report, the spiritual part but I would say that in the delivery of care it is absolutely delivered I mean, you know, we provide every denomination here and frankly we just affiliated with another company, very spiritual in everything we do. So, I think it's more of a I think you bring up a good point and again this is a draft so --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LO: --I think we certainly should add that in there especially since this is supposed to be driven by the community and the community voice. But I do think that, you know, I mean it's not in the report at this point in time that I've seen, but I think that just in our daily being and daily operations it's a critical piece. So, but I will definitely add that in our feedback to our contractor.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Lo. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. King, any questions you'd like to pose?

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. It's really exciting to see this kind of master planning going on so I'm really excited about that. I believe I am a kupuna so. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh my God, we admitting age.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I found out what the age limit was and I unfortunately or fortunately fall in the age category. But what I wanted to just ask you about, Wes, is, you know, in identifying things like the what the Chair was talking about how the healthcare industry could be, you know, we could be expanding on that and that could be one of our economic-diversified industries, but are you working with our higher education system to make sure that we have the education here so that we are giving jobs to our people and not importing people for that industry?

MR. LO: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Lo.

MR. LO: Councilmember King, absolutely. So, we've been really fortunate over this last year we've been working with a lot of foundations like Castle Foundation, Weinberg Foundation, I think it's Strata Health and...Strata Education \_\_\_\_\_ so on and so forth and we actually have and we're getting grants from the Department of Labor. We actually are in the midst of finalizing a project with UHMC, DOE, MEDB, Hale Makua to start a pathway. The idea is to create a pathway for those that are not necessarily able to go to college and it's not because they're not smart it's because they don't have the financial resources to provide a career path. I think, you know, again I don't have all the specifics, but I'd be happy if you need to have a presentation on where we are. We are talking about like sort of a ten-year plan where somebody can get a job at the lowest level, but ten years they'll be potentially a nurse which is one of the highest paying jobs in the community. And we've been talking about ways that maybe after those ten years of education and commitment and work maybe we give them instead of a retirement account we give them some money for a down payment on a home. So, we're working on that right now, we don't have it done yet, it is a very involved process we are working very closely with Louie and actually our current pilot is with Jaime Yap at Maui High, but we are, you know, involved with...even at the system level that, UH Community College level we're definitely working on that 'cause we think this is a model that could expand across the state. And so, we have various pathways. And again, I always talk too much, but what's I think it's important about this is that there's funding from various sources, Hale Makua is paying for part of this, the foundations are paying for part of this, the colleges is pitching in so that's how you do these things is you cobble it together as opposed to trying to get any one entity to do it. The State Department of Labor is giving us some money so, you know, that's our goal is to be more inclusive and to find different sources of funding to have maybe a better system. So, --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I love it.



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MR. LO: --long, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's such a creative way to think too that you can find ways to get people in on the ground floor, you know, if they can't quite afford college right now. And this is the perfect time to do it because we're in this COVID situation where they're letting people graduate early from med school so they can get into the workforce because we need that, the recognition that we need that workforce. But that's been one of my main concerns is as we create this diversified economy to make sure that we're giving our own people jobs and educating our own students and our own, you know, community members and we're not just importing people for it, you know, the new economy. So, thank you so much for thinking ahead of that, and I think if you if you do put together a presentation about that it should be a community presentation so that everybody can see what you're doing and people can get the new idea that maybe this is something I want to do...I mean I can't even tell you how many high school kids I talk to including my own niece and nephew who don't know what they want to do, you know, don't know where the opportunities are. And so, I think this is a great opportunity and I think you're headed in the right direction you're thinking in those terms of how to bring people in so that we're benefiting our own residents. So, thank you. Thank you, Chair, that was just a great answer, great thing to hear.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. King. Yeah. No. We have unbelievable talent in our youth and we just need to find a door to give them that opportunity. I'm with you, Ms. King --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --we've got outstanding young people. Mr. Molina, a question, sir?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Hokama and Mr. Lo, and, you know, you talked about the effects of the COVID-19 while strange as it sounds, you know, stores like the Costco's and the Foodland's they're now providing kupuna hours so, it's a perk, a strange sort of perk but which I'm certainly glad to be a part of now. But, you know, you really, I like the point you touched upon that we need to maybe grow our healthcare professionals here for the long term. You know, I guess the actuarial studies for example I was looking for people my age or males my age is another maybe 25, 26 years and people are going to live longer, you know hopefully with the right care and medicines and so forth so, I'm definitely with you on that. And, you know, recently I read where UH Manoa's offering pre-med courses on Maui so, I think that's something I hope that with your influence that we can help to foster growing healthcare professionals on Maui here. And it certainly would save a big expense on parents having to send their kids off island. So, if they can get the necessary training and courses, partnering with private entities I think it would be really great. One quick question I have with the upcoming 2020 Census as it relates to senior statistics. How are you looking at that to possibly maybe reorganize some of your funds for your, for either campus? Have you kind of are looking at that? I'm sure the numbers will

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certainly increase in terms of senior statistics for the 2020 Census. Any thoughts on that?

MR. LO: Well, for sure we're gonna have a growing senior population. And I hope I'm answering your question right, but I don't believe that we can continue building the way we build and taking care of people the way we take care of them. There's just not enough capacity, I don't think Grant Chun or myself can keep up with the demand for what the seniors will happen. So, I think that as it relates to that growth in that is we need to change how we take care of people and find ways to keep them healthy, but actually maybe not even from a medicine standpoint from a health standpoint. Yeah, I'd love to tell you some stories about, you know, what we see out in the community through our home health is. Some of these people are diabetics but when you go to their house it's not because they have some disease it's because they eat cake and drink vodka all day, and that's what we gotta stop. And so, you know, I think that we are looking at piloting things where we're getting our younger people in where they're maybe delivering the meals on wheels to them and checking out their home, you know, so maybe they're having respiratory illnesses because there's rats in their house and it's not because of any disease. So, we think we need to figure out a way to not necessarily grow our system the way we're growing it, we need to figure out a new delivery system. So, I think that's it. I think from a, if you're talking about it from a funding standpoint, you know, I we don't we haven't really necessarily gotten money from...we get it through Medicare and Medicaid, you know, so frankly I think the way we look at is we need to save the insurance companies money and we need to tell them give us some of that savings. End of the story, you know. And, you know, obviously we look to the County and the State to assist as needed but to the extent we can be more self-sustainable I think that's gonna be better for us. So, we're kind of in that midst that we gotta retool our attitudes and our workforce, you know, to take advantage of that. So, we're fortunate that the insurance companies are willing to do a pilot project with us now and we're just starting that so, maybe within three or six months we will start something and then try to see if we can access some of those monies that way.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Well, thank you, Mr. Lo, I applaud your efforts for thinking way ahead, it's much appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. So, I just wanted to clarify this wasn't anything about the building or the master planning, it was just the health impact assessment right?

MR. LO: Mr. Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Lo?

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MR. LO: Oh I'm sorry.

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

MR. LO: Yes. We did not yeah we did not want to, we didn't want to pre-conclude anything, we did not want to go out with a plan and have people react to it, we wanted to have conversations with them to see what was important to them and there was a lot of discussion about the park. And it's a beloved park and it's a beloved pool so, we wanted to know, we're not gonna go do something that the community doesn't want right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I was wondering, you know, by the time folks get to be kupuna and you're talking about healthy eating, do you ever have any success in like say you drink Pepsi for 60, 70, 80 years and then you want to go talk to somebody about being a diabetic or, you know, the cigarettes or those kind of things, I mean isn't it something that we need to address before kupuna, like the healthy impact assessment I mean because if that's their lifestyle already and then we're trying to take those things away from them it's almost like where's the joy in life, you know, little bit. So, I was wondering if you've ever been successful 'cause like say then they have this stroke and now nobody buys Pepsi for them or nobody will go and get whatever vice it is and so, now they're like have this physical thing and they can't enjoy their things that, you know, that they like to whether it's beer or whatever it is. Like is that...have you been ever successful in that or is it I mean...

MR. LO: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Lo?

MR. LO: You know, you bring up a really good point, Councilmember. So, there are programs that do that. I think you've seen the Ornish Program and some of these really they basically I think you can watch on TV there's the lady in the Ekahi Health thing that, you know, she changes her life and everything. But I think we are more of one that feels that there needs to be moderation. You know, if people are not gonna be happy, I mean there's a mental health aspect to it too just like you say and you're trying to force somebody to do that then what other indications are there. But I think where we've been successful and where we want to be successful if some people are self-destructing. So, again I don't mean to be too graphic but I always hear the story about one of our home health nurses goes to a home and the gentleman is sitting in urine encrusted pants and all he has in his refrigerator was vodka. So, the idea on this is to try to change them is intervene with them so they don't go use the emergency room and try saying can you eat something today and let's go deliver a healthy meal so that you have something in your refrigerator other than vodka and, you know, to try to change that from costing the system too much money. You know, I don't think we're here to make lifestyle choices for people, but we're here to encourage and educate that, you know, maybe they can have a little bit better life and that's why I think a lot of this is really important as we go forward with the pandemic is the psychosocial issues are going to be critical to deal with and we need to find a way to deal with that.

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I mean it's not, you know, it's not psychiatric issues, it's psychosocial issues, you know, it's depression, you lost your job, the stress of overworking. So, you know, we have to take a holistic approach to it so, I think we've been marginally successful, you know, I think that our pilot project is meant to try to deal with the guys that are self-destructing and don't have access to things like food, you know, et cetera, healthy food, you know, maybe they're just eating spam everyday right or something, you know. So, that we can make sure they get a healthy meal out of that so, I think you're right though it's...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Spam every day, that's living the dream right there.

MR. LO: Yeah, my father when he had to stop eating pig's feet he said he'd rather die so, you know, I do know what you're talking about.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And then I really do appreciate like I mean not only home healthcare but nurses, doctors, I mean I've broken a lot of bones in my previous career and like trying to find like an orthopedic surgeon before the thing heals correctly that's a struggle here on Maui. So, if we could steer some of our youth in that direction that would be super awesome because, yeah, like by six weeks they gotta re-break 'em again and set em 'again so that's a lot of time and pain.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. We understand rebreaking and resetting, Ms. Paltin, that is the pits, just the pits. Yeah. Thank you for your questions and concerns though. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, would you care to pose some questions to Mr. Lo?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Lo, mahalo for your presentation. So, Hamburger Helper, no? Just kidding, just kidding. Inside joke from earlier. Let food be thy medicine right. . . .(inaudible). . . you know what you've been talking about and the vision for moving forward and I completely support, you know, our HFC Chair in investing in healthcare industry. So, we had Mr. Rembis, Mike Rembis from Maui Memorial and he shared with us that when he first joined Maui Memorial he had about 200 visiting nurses because there is such a shortage and he's now down to about 50 to 60 visiting nurses at a time. And his goal is to have all local nurses, all on-island nurses so no more visiting. So, I'm wondering if in your partnership and talk stories if there...he's been included or, you know, anyone from there?

MR. LO: Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Lo?

MR. LO: Councilmember, so, we actually have...we were actually...you know, we're a much smaller facility but we had over 20, about 25 traveling nurses. We're down to I think two or three now. But we had to do it, we had to invest in it and that was it was costly for us. We actually ended up hiring a clinical trainer who acts as the clinical...did the clinical training for UHMC License Practical Nurse Program. So, although we're not completely joined at the hip . . .(inaudible). . . So, our pathway and our plan that we're

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working on is that we will take...we're gonna try to build a pathway for those people that can't go to college, can't go to nursing school, that they can become a CNA and then there will be a hopefully a bridge so that they become a licensed practical nurse and they'll work for us for a few years and then what's happening now is we actually have that pathway for the license practical nurse and then after a year...if they work for us for a year they get credits to become a registered nurse, to go to school to be a registered nurse and then it's for them they would then end up probably working for a hospital or for some other institution. So, we've taken the approach that we are not just trying to hire for ourselves, we are trying to create a pipeline of people and yeah it's just we have to do that, I mean, you know, you never want to stop somebody just so that you benefit, you want to see their careers develop so. So, what, right now is we, this licensed practical nurse program, we...they graduate ten a year, we hire nine out of ten usually and then after a year they move on to their RN degree and then usually move on to the hospital. And then we get the new class in of ten so we are looking to expand that. So, although we're not working directly with them because our lines of business are a little bit different, we have different skill sets, we understand that our nurses a lot of times will probably opt to move to the higher level of the higher paid registered nurses. So, we're actually acting as a feeder for them to some extent. Now, I think that, you know, having worked at the hospital for the, you know, where we can participate but I think that they may need to look at is a new grad RN cannot go work immediately as a emergency room, ICU or OB nurse, it takes them years to train in that specialty. You do not want a brand new nurse who's never touched a patient doing heart surgery. They need time and effort so, most of those openings in those agencies are for skilled workers and the new grad RNs we...they're actually not all necessarily being hired right now. So, we are working on a, part of our workforce development project is to hire these people and train them to be home health nurses so that they can get up to the higher level of care and we will invest in that. So, unfortunately it costs us money to do that, but it's weird it costs us money but hopefully in the long run it saves us money 'cause I don't have to hire them, you know, agency people and then they'll have opportunity to go to the hospital after that but. So, I guess to answer your question no, we don't work totally in sync with them, but we're sort of pitching to them right now because our nurses need to still go on to further education and we're trying to create that path for them to go to further education.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your response, Mr. Lo, and congratulations on getting it all the way down to two to three traveling nurses. Mahalo for your efforts in doing that investing and in our community here. Yeah so, I support that your pitch to the hospital since it seems like they benefit greatly from the pathway that you've established so, I hope that they'll be open to partnering and working together on this for the benefit of our entire County. Mahalo, Mr. Lo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Mr. Lo, one of the things that I found refreshing 'cause, again yeah, when it comes to housing we've always been trying to address it from a cost side, adjustment maybe valuations, County subsidies and support for down payments, but I thought what was refreshing is one of your priorities

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approaches it from the other end of the spectrum which is increase the pay for good jobs so that they can afford the housing instead of us trying to reduce housing price to fit those that are not being compensated what I would say, what I would term maybe living wages. So, I appreciate that comment coming out of your draft report because we tend to forget that there's another way to approach the problem sometimes and I like this that, you know, maybe we gotta work on the other end of the spectrum and increase the ability of our people to have one good job so they can be a good parent to their children who are at home because I'm sure most parents want to be with their kids, they don't want to go to another job. So, I really appreciate that comment, Mr. Lo, in your draft. The other thing is I appreciate you doing this assessment to help now you have the community participate in a master planning because we have a sense of what the community's concerns and priorities are and therefore I support this. The one thing I would hope maybe you can give us a short comment and, you know, yourself how well you verbalize. This thing about the COFA Compact of Free Association communities. I'd like the ability of having volume to reduce pricing or costs to provide services. So, how does Maui fit into a COFA component, Mr. Lo, if any please?

MR. LO: Mr. Chair, you know, I'd have to go back to the community health needs assessment, but the, I not sure if Maui is as bad as in Oahu but the immigrant, the COFA population don't necessarily have the right insurance and also they are...they tend to be unhealthier either genetically or through diet, et cetera. And that we need to take care of our community, they're part of our community and we need to take care of them. So, I'll have to get back to you on that, it's part of a separate study but I not sure that our project is necessarily gonna as directly touch that at this point in time, at least I don't...I not, you know, at this early stage because we're really talking about sort of the land and the surrounding areas but I do think that if we treat our general population appropriately and that includes the COFA people then they'll be healthier people and at least it'll indirectly affect that area. But I'll need to get back to you, Mr. Chair, I'm sorry I'm not up to speed on that one.

CHAIR HOKAMA: And again I just bring that up because like for Lāna`i, yeah, we have a lot of Micronesians, Bikinians and whatnot from the old nuclear testing days, yeah, of the Cold War era so, you know, again Hawai`i has a lot of those sister islanders now and the Federal government has not provided Hawai`i or our counties sufficient resources to take care of the responsibility that the Federal government owes these islanders of the South Pacific. So, again, I'm just trying to find ways of how we can assist our fellow islanders is one, and do you have any recommendations, you know, since we've had Ms. Arakawa earlier, on how we may try and adjust either boundary lines or whatnot so that 'cause, you know, I, it still befuddles me how we drew the line 'cause I'm thinking we missed out on a lot of opportunities by excluding things like Hale Makua and whatnot from an opportunity zone benefit. Because you and I know there's people who with cash that would like to invest, but haven't created the venue to receive the funding. So, you have any comments on how we may able to work out some kind of cooperative adjustment so we can capture this and move forward, things like your master planning and TODs and whatnot between Central Maui.

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MR. LO: Well, Mr. Chair, I, you know, I haven't concentrated on...I think that there is episodic ability to change the boundary lines on opportunity zones. Again, I'm not well versed on when and how that happens, but I do think that they can come up episodically to the Council for review. And I think when they initially established opportunity zones it was such a new thing that, you know, it kind of just went through. Having said that, again I think opportunity zones are just a tool in the tool box. I think that now that we have the health, well we almost have the health impact assessment we need to finish this that now we can go and start looking at what other types of financing and funding is out there. Again there's a lot of social impact funding which is opportunity zone is a vehicle to do social impact funding. I think some of you may have heard when the Maurice Jones from LISC came over here he said you do the health impact assessment we'll go find you the money, I don't know what that means but so we did it so now we're gonna go and see. But as I think about this it's everybody needs to do their part, we need to go search for whatever money is out there, well any type. But we also need to collaborate on projects like again if there was a complete street project on Onehee which there happens to be and we start looking at a development in Kahului Community Center something then, you know, it's gonna be cheaper if we both do it. You know, if the County wants to do a community center and we can do wrap-around services around it then it can happen, you know, so I think that we need to look at every aspect of it. I think I don't, I'm not at the point that I want to say anything that opportunity zone is the only vehicle to do it. I think there's probably...there's all kinds of vehicles out there. If we get the right project they tell me, well you heard the words is there's a bunch of planes looking for a landing area right now. So, we need to figure out what that, you know, they were encouraging us to think bigger remember. We had a lunch with them and they said you need to think bigger, don't just think about, you know, just doing this small piece, make it bigger and I'm going are you crazy, you know, but that's what they say so, I think this is the test. We go out now after we finalize this and we go ask them and I would encourage if there's any people at the Council that would like to part of that conversation to talk to some of these people we should I mean 'cause they're gonna want the County to participate too. But, you know, everybody gotta put their piece in.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So, Mr. Lo, hearing the Committee's questions and we appreciate your response what do you foresee as the next step in this process and can you give us some kind of timeframe or projection as you see it currently?

MR. LO: Mr. Chair, I think I would like to digest this report, you know, again we literally got it about 7:30 this morning. And, you know, I'm gonna provide comments back and we need to finalize it. They do have some next steps they suggest which is not next steps about to the plan. The next step is to build the structure to ensure that this is community driven and addresses the things that we have found through the thing. So, I think that's gonna be important that we whether it's either through you or present to the whatever, whatever your pleasure is for the Council to embed that type of structure in there so that we know that it will continue on that it's driven by the community.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

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MR. LO: I think at that point I think there needs to be some discussion about okay well should we move forward to the master plan of the park now. With these voices and the structure and then make decisions around that. So, as it relates to the park that's what I think is the next step. As it relates to some of these other activities around it I think that we, it may not be a bad idea to start creating some of these structures and once...that can sort through this. I think like even if we were to do a response to the COVID pandemic from an economic perspective and I think I mentioned even if it was an interim response while tourism recovers. You just gotta get the right people that are driven by the right mission and then let's solve some problems and let's figure out how to bring community together. I think that, I think that this at least gives us a framework to try to put together those types of teams, you know, to give everybody a voice.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right. Right.

MR. LO: And, you know, but you gotta get like-minded people with the vision.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah. No. I appreciate that response. Director Tsuhako, you have anything you wish to provide comment at this time to the Committee?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Look forward to seeing the draft of the report and looking at it strategically to see the connection of our Department and our functions with what Mr. Aoki proposed. We had several meetings with consulting team and that was really helpful to sit around with really smart people who asked interesting questions. So, I'll look forward to getting that from you, Wes. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Director. Ms. Sugimura, last question for Mr. Lo or Director?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: That made me think of something. So, what other departments are involved in this? Housing Human Concerns, I would imagine Parks.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Parks has the parks component, but those are the two key County agencies.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Human Concerns and Parks with Mr. Lo.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Well I look forward to this, I mean I'm seeing this unfold before us and it can happen, I can see where it's gonna happen so thanks a lot, Mr. Lo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Sugimura. Ms. Kama, any last question for our resource people?



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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I just wanted to ask Mr. Lo, you know, you brought up earlier the issue of the COFA communities. So, in that same sentence it talks also about supporting leadership development among the immigrants too. So, those are two different populations right, we're talking about immigrants who are, normally are not US citizens and the COFA people who are not citizens but they have a, they have a relationship with the Feds that gives them a little, their relationship to us is a little bit I don't know if you want to call it a notch up or a notch or not, but if when you do when you respond back to Mr. Hokama if you could talk about who these immigrants are and what it is you're trying to do. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you for that request, Ms. Kama, we'll help follow up for you with Mr. Lo. So, thank you for that. Ms. King, any final question for Mr. Lo or resources?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I just want . . . I just—thank you, Chair—I just wanted to tell Mr. Lo that I'm, I just really appreciate the thinking outside the box and I think that's what we're gonna need to get through this next phase of where our economy is going so I really appreciate that and anything I can do to help feel free to call on me. I have...education always comes up with me because of my background with the Board of Education so I'd like to see that component happen because that's gonna really add to our, to the strength of that economic base. So, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Chairman, no, no further questions. Just want to thank Mr. Lo for dropping by again, always good to see him. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And Director Tsuhako too.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Ms. Paltin, any question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, no, just yeah, keep us updated on the parks and the community center and all those facilities and yeah, you know, everybody like use 'em so the intergenerational is a good thing I think, you know, swimming is a real intergenerational thing, canoe paddling is intergenerational. So, yeah, I like that better than the exclusivity.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, any final questions or concerns?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo Chair. Just a last comment. I wanted to thank Mr. Lo again for the presentation and for his vision and for his comment about, you know, even as tourism picks up again that we shouldn't lose sight of this vision of continuing to invest in our other industries particularly as what Dr. Pang mentioned about, you know, this year's COVID-19 next year could be COVID-21 and

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that's just, you know, the reality of our future. This time it wasn't an airborne virus and the next time it could be. So, I think the healthcare industry is definitely an industry that we need to invest more in now. So, mahalo, Mr. Lo and Director Tsuhako. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Thank you. So, again, Mr. Lo, yeah, we'll be working with you. I think one of the areas that we can help assist you is also to help be a venue to bring others to the table to have their participation in the discussion. I think one especially that I appreciate from Ms. King is the need of the State with the Department of Education. And even on outreach education, you know, there are those that don't do well in a four-wall classroom, they learn differently. Okay. So, we get it right. So, my thing is I appreciate Mr. Lo being open that education can take many different forms instead of the formal institutional way that there are those that learn by just watching, learn by doing, and so, yeah, I think if we can provide that we'll be able to help keep our kama`āina keiki o ka `āina home which is what I think we all want right. We want our family with us so, I think this is one of the ways that we can get it accomplished and so, Mr. Lo, we thank you for your time, we wish you continued success in moving this forward to the next phase and we'll look forward to your update at the next time we schedule this. So, Members, with no objections I would like to defer Item 35 which is the Hale Makua Master Planning and HFC-15 which is the Opportunity Zones with no objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.**

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, both items are deferred. And is there anyone that would like to make an announcement before we adjourn? I know we have Council meeting tomorrow at nine o'clock. So, if there's no announcements or anything, thank you for being here this afternoon. Thank you, Director Tsuhako, Ms. Arakawa and Mr. Lo, we appreciate your time and presence. With no further business we are adjourned, thank you very much for being here. . . .(gavel). . .

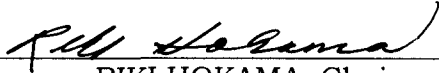
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**ADJOURN:** 3:52 p.m.

APPROVED:



RIKI HOKAMA, Chair  
Healthy Families and Communities  
Committee

hfc:min:200604:cvk

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 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019, in Kihei, Hawaii

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cheryl von Kugler", is written over a horizontal line.

Cheryl von Kugler