

HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

July 9, 2020

Council Chamber, 8th Floor

CONVENE: 1:30 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

EXCUSED: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

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

ADMIN.: Karla Peters, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
(HFC-59)
Jordan Molina, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works
(HFC-59)
Timothy Griffith, Jr., Arboriculturist, Highways Division,
Department of Public Works (HFC-59)
Lori Ann Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human
Concerns (HFC-35)
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Stephanie Chen, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of
the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Barbara Fernandez, Arborist Committee (HFC-59)
Blossom Feiteira, Arborist Committee (HFC-59)
Zhantell Lindo (HFC-35)
Laurie Au (HFC-59)
Annette Matsuda, Maintenance Engineer, Hawaii Department of
Transportation (HFC-59)
Stewart Matsunaga, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
(HFC-59)
Darren Okimoto, Project Manager, Dowling Co., Pu`unani
Homestead Project (HFC-59)
Mike Miyabara, Miyabara Associates (HFC-59)
Wesley Lo, Hale Makua Health Services (HFC-35)
Andrew Aoki, Islander Institute (HFC-35)
Bryan Esmeralda, Munekiyo Hiraga (HFC-59)

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

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CHAIR HOKAMA: . . . (*gavel*) . . . We are on, Members. So at this time, the Council's Committee on Healthy Families and Communities Committee meeting shall come to order. This is our regular meeting of 9th of July, 2020. And participating this afternoon, from the Committee is our Vice-Chair, Ms. Yuki Lei Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon. We also have this afternoon joining us, our Committee Members, Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha `auinala, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon, aloha e. Is Ms. King...are you there, Ms. King? Are you joining us?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I am here.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Great, great, great. Thank you. Thank you. Happy to see your face, so thank you. We have Ms. King joining us.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Also, this afternoon, is Committee Member, Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. Blessings to you, my colleagues and everyone, from Makawao.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. And then I'll take my opportunity to say, you've got a great hair style, Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well, I keep getting it every day. Thank you so much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Molina, at least you've got something you can crow about.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Actually, not much to crow about, if you ask me.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Joining us later, and so excused at this time, is our Committee Member, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. She had indicated to the Chair that she is running slightly late. We do have also two Members that may join us as non-voting Members; but, if they are, Ms. Lee and Mr. Sinenci is always very welcome to participate and join us in our discussions. Okay, Members, we have two items this afternoon: HFC-59...oh, excuse me, we have Ms. Paltin, I forgot. Also on the Committee, Members, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha `auinala. Live and direct from our West Maui District Office

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in Lahaina Town at the Old Lahaina Center right above Nagasako's.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Gosh, that was the perfect radio announcement. Aloha e, mahalo. So okay, Members, we will take, at this time, testimony on two items: HFC-59, under the heading of Exceptional Trees, and on HFC-35, which is under the heading of the Hale Makua Master Planning. So for those that would like to share some comment with us this afternoon, please make yourself aware to us. Sign up on our listing and we'll provide you with your opportunity to share your testimony for us. So couple things that we are doing also that is pretty standard for our committees. We intend to keep the same meeting link for this Committee and phone number for our future Healthy Families meetings. And for those that are testifying, we would appreciate if you would state your first and last name for our Committee records; and if you represent an organization, if you would share that, or if you are also a professional or paid lobbyist. BlueJeans chat, the software that we are using, is not to be used to provide testimony, comment on testimony of others, or to chat with others during our meeting. If you just wish to observe the meeting, of course we have live feed with *Akaku* and you can view this meeting also from that venue. At this time, we will have public testimony. Each person has up to three minutes per item by this Committee to share your thoughts with us. And therefore, Lesley, if you could assist the Committee? Do we have anyone signed up for oral testimony?

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair. We currently have seven people signed up to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. If you would please call up the first person for us?

MS. MILNER: Our first testifier is the phone number ending in 9646. If you could unmute yourself and begin your testimony? 9646, I will unmute you, if you're having difficulties. 9646, you're unmuted.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. FERNANDEZ: Okay, fine. Aloha, Chair and Committee Members.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. FERNANDEZ: From Waiakoa, Kula, I am Barbara Hala'i Fernandez, and I'm testifying on the agenda, Exceptional Trees, of course, HFC-59. I am on the Arborist Committee. And February 12, the Department of Hawaiian Lands [sic] project was presented to us. The primary presentation was outside of the planned subdivision; but the Monkey Pod trees on the highway, those are the ones that are exceptional trees. Mr. Matsunaga and Blossom Feiteira were there. Aloha to you both, if you're there. Is planning exceptional trees. It's on the exceptional tree list that all Members have available. It's M as in Mary 38. On that, it says there's 187 trees along the highway, so that needs to be checked, please. The trees that we're talking about in our meeting were 34 of the Monkey Pod trees, and they all were on the mauka side. Our notes from our Arborist Committee meeting February 12, when this presentation was given to us, the partner is Dowling

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Company. Mr. Dowling has been very upfront and very easy to work with, things that I've had to do with Maui Green and Beautiful and other things. So the interest that we had was the traffic flow in and out, the removal of the trees, and working along with Tim, our Arborist, and Karla, our Director of Parks, that we've been told that the Arborist Committee will work along. The balance of the homes worked out, the presentation on that. Those trees are...if you go up and look at them, that run of trees are not happy trees, most of them are beyond dead, full of fungus, and so on. So a balance of 164 Hawaiian families, dead trees, go figure. So replacement of the proposal was one on one. So we were asking that that's always in writing so then they'll be held to the State and County about working along. Uncle Ernest Rezens and his Maui County Planting Plan, he will be back in the groove. So the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has here that they'll be taking care of those trees. That needs to be made clear also on who's going to take . . . and again, get everything in writing because you know how it goes. We saw the exceptional trees as dangerous or diseased beyond repair. So the consensus of the Arborist Committee was that we would go ahead, working, of course, with the folks that are going to be doing that. And it just sounds like a nice beautification, get some new trees in there. And we're also be talking back and forth with them on what trees are going to work in that area. It doesn't necessarily have to be Monkey Pod trees.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. FERNANDEZ: I believe they're giving you . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Barbara, your time is . . .

MS. FERNANDEZ: Yeah?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Barbara, your time is up, but let me just say that it is my intention to ask if you would stay with us; and when we bring up this item, if you would participate with us as a resource, especially as your position on the Arborist Committee. And would you be able to participate, Barbara?

MS. FERNANDEZ: Yes, Committee Chair. I'll stay online. Do you have us just...I'll just stay online and then I'm watching you at *Akaku*.

CHAIR HOKAMA: This will be the first item . . .yeah. This will be the first item we take up after testimony, so it should be shortly, Barbara. And therefore, yeah, Members --

MS. FERNANDEZ: I'll just go feed some goats --

CHAIR HOKAMA: --I'm not going ask --

MS. FERNANDEZ: --and stay on the line.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --any person for clarification. We'll have Ms. Fernandez participate in the discussion with you when we bring up the item. Okay, so . . .

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MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I'll do that, I'll stay on.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Barbara.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lesley, if you would please announce our next testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is the caller with the number ending in 5572. 5572, please unmute yourself and begin your testimony. 5572, I...oh, there, you're unmuted.

MS. FEITEIRA: Hi, aloha, Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee. On behalf of the 3,798 residential applicants and the 225 beneficiaries that are currently waiting for an award, I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of item HFC-59, and that's the delisting of the 34 Monkey Pod trees in the Waikapu area. For your records, my name is Blossom Feiteira, and I serve as the President of the Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands. We are an advocacy organization that works closely with our beneficiary community to provide them with opportunities to access trust lands for homeownership, and for other purposes. The Pu'unani Homestead Project proposes to develop 161 units for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the act, and to seek out an opportunity to achieve homeownership. The delisting of these specific trees is one of the many steps that will need to be taken in order for this project to move forward. In light of our current situation, a project such as Pu'unani can move the needle forward to address the many challenges our island community is facing: housing and economic opportunities. By moving this project, we will see 161 beneficiaries of our trust gain access to housing, the development of living wage employment, and the support of our local enterprises and a future source of revenue for our County. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I would ask you and your Committee to vote in support of this item today. Once again, mahalo for allowing me to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Feiteira, and good to hear from you again. And mahalo for your testimony in regards to your representation to the, your homestead association. Is there any need or a question for clarification to Ms. Feiteira regarding her testimony, Members? Yes, Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Blossom, for being here. So you mentioned in your testimony that the trees were going to be delisted, meaning that they're going to be removed?

MS. FEITEIRA: Yeah. So the Monkey Pod trees are going to be removed. And the Department made a commitment to the Arborist Committee and to the beneficiaries that they would replace those trees one to one. We had asked that we prefer to have indigenous trees planted or native trees to replace those Monkey Pods, and that is something that I know Mr. Miyabara, the landscape architect, has been working very diligently on.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, if I may? So Blossom, do you folks have an idea of what kind of trees you'd like to see replaced with?

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MS. FEITEIRA: Well, I mean, we would prefer koai`e, which is a --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MS. FEITEIRA: --lowland koa species; but, you know, one of the concerns moving forward in this is any time you have a high canopy tree, you also have to take into consideration the root system, yeah. And so --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MS. FEITEIRA: --the current Monkey Pod trees are creating damage in the highway closer to Wailuku, and we want to try and see if we can avoid that from happening with these new trees coming in. And so we're relying very heavily on DLNR, Forestry and Wildlife, as well as Mr. Miyabara to help us identify what kind of trees would be appropriate for the canopy cover in Pu`unani.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Cool. Thank you, Blossom. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Blossom. Good to hear your voice.

MS. FEITEIRA: Hi, aloha, Councilmember King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So I just wondered if you guys had a plan for what to do with the trees that you take out. Are they...I mean, there used to be people who would come and get them for firewood. I don't know if that's still the case, but is there a...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, we'll bring this up . . .

MS. FEITEIRA: You know, I'm . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: We'll talk about this when we bring up the item, Members. I would like you to hear the presentation first, and then --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --and that it may answer some of your questions. And whatever isn't, please ask them at that point in time, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you. Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Blossom. So Chair, tell me if this is a question maybe for the Arborist. But I'm looking at your agenda item today and there's 34 trees that's

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described. I'm looking out the window right by the Wailuku Library. So are you saying all of these Monkey Pod trees are dying and it needs to be replaced? Or what is...and that the...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, that we'll . . . we'll do that in the presentation, Ms. Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We're not going to respond to those questions in...under testimony. We'll take it under --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --the item.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, any other questions on the testimony, clarification request? Lesley, next testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Chair, our next testifier is Zhantell Lindo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. LINDO: Aloha. Thank you, Chair --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, aloha.

MS. LINDO: --for allowing me this opportunity. I am, I took some . . . *(audio interference)* . . . HFC-35, the master plan for -- sorry -- Hale Makua.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. LINDO: Recently, in the beginning part of this year, I was blessed to have the opportunity to take care of my kupuna, one of my kupuna in the last stages of her life. She had lived as a transgender individual for 82 years of her life, and so for all practical purposes and in the way everybody knew, this person she was identified as a she even though she had never formally, you know, transferred from male to female. And I tell you this because I had...she was supposed to go into a home and we were given the opportunity to kind of research Hale Makua and take a look at the facility. Just so happen COVID hit and we were unable to get her there in time before she passed; but in the process of looking, it saddened me to know that there was no policy for transgender or māhū or any minorities under the current system that this facility runs under, and I love the facility. So I'm just here to say that as we discuss master plans for anything, the feminist bill that was passed earlier is the Council's way of encouraging us, or should be encouraging all of the departments from the planning onset, to look at intentful inclusion of design elements that address transgender and other minorities. And look

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at economical solutions for implementing that without it having to be a critical kind of conversation during the worst times in somebody's life. I also want to suggest...I know that it's only \$200,000, but I want to suggest that in the master plan, there is also an intent to look for solutions for single and private rooms. At current, most of the facilities that house our kupuna, they need to be shared rooms under the insurance policy or the way it's designed, but I have a feeling that if we were to be able to offer single, more economical prices for those, we would see better services for our kupuna in need. I also want to just kind of give out if...and it's a question mostly, if the County helps to subsidize or give money towards a facility like this, does it relinquish all liability from discrimination suit if the facility that they have contributed to does not have a policy for transgender and other minorities? Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. I appreciate your mana`o from Moloka`i, and thank you for bringing up a specific concern of yours. I can tell you that as a government, our funds are to be utilized according to the law. So again, your concern about discrimination and whatnot, that would not be tolerated by this County in our expenditure of our resources. And if there is, then we would take appropriate legal action, whether it be judicial or reimbursement of funds and resources that was provided. There is recourse for non-compliance under the County Code and State Statute as well as Federal law. So Ms. Lindo, no, thank you for bringing that up.

MS. LINDO: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Again, part of the master planning efforts, when we come up to that item, is about looking at this...our community as a whole. So what you are mentioning is not to be viewed as part of outside of the circle --

MS. LINDO: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --they're part of the circle, yeah?

MS. LINDO: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Everybody is part of the circle, nobody is outside of the circle. So --

MS. LINDO: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --if we look at it that way, from one ohana, one family, one circle, I think we can overcome some of those, the challenges you shared with us this afternoon. So thank you very much.

MS. LINDO: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lesley, next.

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair, our next testifier is Mike Miyabara.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Mr. Miyabara, are you able to unmute yourself?

MS. MILNER: I'll try unmuting from our end, Chair. He's muted from his end, so I cannot unmute him. I have unmuted Miyabara Associates, if that's where --

MR. MIYABARA: Can you hear me now? Sorry.

MS. MILNER: --you're giving testimony.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. Yes, yes, we can hear you now.

MR. MIYABARA: Okay. Oh sorry, sorry about that. I'm sorry, I'm not here to give testimony, I'm part of the presentation team, so I'll wait until the presentation.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you, Mr. Miyabara. And again, Members, my understanding is Mr. Miyabara is their landscape architect, so --

MR. MIYABARA: Yes, that's right.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --. . . *(inaudible)* . . . efforts and he'll be able to respond to you when we bring up the item. So thank you, Mr. Miyabara. Lesley, if you would please announce our next testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Bryan Esmeralda.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. ESMERALDA: Aloha. I'm also part of the team, so I'll wait for the item. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you, Mr. Esmeralda.

MS. MILNER: Okay. Our next testifier is the phone number ending in 2124.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: I will unmute them now. 2124, you can begin your testimony.

MR. MATSUNAGA: Aloha, Chair. This is Stewart Matsunaga, Hawaiian Home Lands, and I too will wait my turn to provide our message when the ordinance is heard.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah, thank you very much, Mr. Matsunaga. Les, the next individual please.

MS. MILNER: Chair, our final testifier is Laurie Au.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Hi, Laurie.

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MS. AU: Hi. This is Laurie. I'm sorry, I'm not a testifier actually.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh, okay.

MS. AU: Thank you though.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much. If there is anyone else out there that would like to share testimony with the Committee this afternoon, please make yourself known. We'll give you a few moments to make yourself available and known to us so that we can provide you your opportunity. Staff, have you noticed any request on our chat for testimony?

MS. MILNER: No, Chair, we have no additional chat requests for testifiers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Members, we have received some written testimony, so with no objections from you, we shall receive written testimony for today's meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much. So ordered. With no further request for oral testimony, Members, we'll close it for today's meeting with no objections from...yes, Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, no, I just want to say my no objections. But after that, would you allow me to just make a brief, short public service announcement?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, the public testimony is closed for today's meeting.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: And Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As you know, there's a fire that's occurring in my district right now. We just got an...actually got an email about 12:15 from Chief Ventura, and just wanted to pass this on to you, the Members and members of the public, and especially members in my...constituents in my district. Currently, most of the active fire is behind Skill Village. According to the Chief, we have most of our resources in that area right now. Winds are very active, and access to the fire is very difficult in the fields. The fire continues to start spot fires almost a quarter mile in front of the head. The fire has grown about 500 more acres as of this morning. Currently, it's around 2,500 acres now that have been scorched by the fires, and trade winds are predominantly moving the fire towards Hana Highway. So

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that's the latest as of 12:15 this afternoon. So just wanted to pass that on to our folks who live in the area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, thank you, Mr. Molina. And if you do have an update, please interrupt me and we'll be happy to let you give us an updated status. So thank you for sharing that information.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

ITEM HFC-59: EXCEPTIONAL TREES (CC 20-269)

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Members, if...may I direct you please to the first item, it is HFC-59 under our agenda, Exceptional Trees. We are in receipt of County Communication 20-269 from the Director of Parks and Recreation, with a proposed bill for an ordinance amending 12.24A, Maui County Code, relating to exceptional trees. The purpose of the proposed bill is to specify 256 Monkey Pod (*Samanea saman*) -- the scientific name -- trees, designated as exceptional trees of the County of Maui, running south towards the intersection with Kuihelani Highway, and with the exception of approximately 34 Monkey Pod trees on the mauka side of Honoapiilani Highway fronting real property identified as tax map key (2) 3-5-022:002. So Members, the request before this Committee is very narrow and specific as it regards to the exceptional trees as it regards to this proposed housing project. And so please keep that in mind. I'll...at this time, we have from Administration, Karla Peters, our directors from Parks and Recreation. I'm going to ask Ms. Peters if she has any opening comments you'd like to share with the Committee on this item.

MS. PETERS: Aloha, Chair, and aloha, Committee. Yeah, so at its...as mentioned by Ms. Fernandez, at its February 12 meeting, the Arborist Committee vote unanimously to recommend to the County Council to delist those exceptional trees fronting the Pu'unani Homestead Project. And at the request of the Arborist Committee, our Department submitted the proposed bill to amend Chapter 12.24A to specify that those trees be delisted and removed. And it's approximately 34 trees on the mauka side of the highway, like you mentioned, Chair. So I'd like to then, you know, give the opportunity to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as well as the Arborist Committee and our Arboriculturist to provide more insight of what's being requested.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah, before I ask Mr. Matsunaga who will be speaking for Hawaiian Home Lands, Mr. Molina, are you online to give any comments from Public Works? If you are, you have anything you'd like to share with us at this time?

MR. MOLINA: Good afternoon, Chair Hokama and Committee Members. We have nothing further to add at this point, just to know that we do have the Department's Arboriculturist on the call as well to share any comments or answer any questions for the Committee. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. We appreciate Mr. Griffith being available also. At this

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time, I'm going to ask Mr. Stewart Matsunaga, Project Manager for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as in regards to the Pu`unani Homestead Project, if he would care to give us some comments please. Mr. Matsunaga? You need to unmute yourself please, Stewart.

MS. MILNER: You should be unmuted now.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, he's still muted.

MR. MATSUNAGA: How's that? Is that . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, now we can hear you, Stewart.

MR. MATSUNAGA: Okay, mahalo. Mahalo. I was saying that I'm IT challenged, so I'm on a laptop with video and on a...on my iPhone speaking to you. And I appreciate --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MR. MATSUNAGA: --Chair Hokama, opportunity to provide a message from Chairman William Aila, Jr., and we extend our mahalo to the Health Families and Communities Committee to consider this proposal to delist exceptional trees fronting DHHL's proposed Pu`unani Homestead Subdivision. The proposed removal of the Monkey Pod trees, and these are 34 Monkey Pod trees, will provide for safe entry in and out of the subdivision. Favorable action on this matter . . . *(audio interference)* . . . DHHL more closer to providing homes for 161 Native Hawaiian families. So we appreciate the opportunity to be here in front of your Committee to provide . . . *(inaudible)* . . . as well as to answer any questions you might have. Our development team, along with Darren Okimoto from Dowling Company, Mr. Miyabara, landscape architect, and Bryan Esmeralda is our planning consultant in charge of our draft EA. And you may know that the draft EA was published in May 23rd, and so we've received many comments from Maui and we're in the process of responding to those comments. But I just want to thank you again for allowing us this opportunity to move this project closer to homesteading. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Mr. Matsunaga, is anyone else of your project team making any opening comments, either Mr. Okimoto -- gosh, I forgot who else you had -- Mr. Miyabara --

MR. MATSUNAGA: . . . *(inaudible)* . . . and Mr. Esmeralda.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --have some comments . . .

MR. MATSUNAGA: Yes, thank you. They have a presentation, it's exhibits that were provided to the Arborist Committee. And with your indulgence, we can ask Mr. Okimoto to bring back the exhibits up for the Committee to see.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah, so why don't one of you on the project team give us some narrative please, what we're looking at.

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MR. OKIMOTO: Okay. Can everyone...this is Darren Okimoto from Dowling Company. Can everyone see the PDF, the site plan of the Pu`unani Homestead Project?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, it's on the screen, Mr. Okimoto.

MR. OKIMOTO: Okay. So thank you, Chair and Council Committee Members, for the opportunity to present this DHHL project. This is project location. It's Pu`unani Homestead by DHHL. It's approximately 47.4 acres located mauka of Honoapiilani Highway just north of the Waiolani Mauka Subdivision; and then for reference, this is Kuikahi Drive, Kehalani, and the Waikapu Gardens Subdivision. As part of this project, at the beginning when we started this project early last year, we did a lot of outreach to the respective agencies with regard to subdivision access. We met with Public Works Engineering Division, explained that we have 161 lots, and they had recommended should have at least two access points and make sure there's adequate site distance. And that's mirrored by what the Fire Department usually requires, two access points for safety, emergency vehicle access. We also met with State DOT Highways, and they similarly mentioned that they want safe intersections with adequate deceleration lanes and site distance so that vehicles going in and out of the subdivision are safe...safe turning. In addition, we reached out to the Waikapu Community Association, and they had expressed some concerns with regard to using Old Waikapu Road for access. So based on taking into account all those different, you know, comments/concerns, the project is proposing two access points off Honoapiilani Highway. The first one to the south is the main access, where it's a T-intersection but a full movement, so vehicles exiting the subdivision can make a left turn out to the highway and, you know, right turn in and a right turn out. Whereas, the northern access is the secondary access, where it's limited to just being able to make a right turn in and then just a right turn out, so vehicles will not be able to make a left to head towards Wailuku Town. So after we figured out what the access points were, we went to meet with Tim Griffith, the County DPW Arborist, about the fact that there are exceptional trees along the highway, the existing Monkey Pod trees. We also met with Director Peters from Parks and Rec to kind of explain the situation, and that's where they both recommended to make a presentation to the Arborist Committee, which is what we did back in February, as Ms. Fernandez had mentioned. In an effort to try to avoid having to affect these trees, the project team did spend a lot of time looking at other options. Like, for example, if, you know, we constrained it to just one access, but that wouldn't comply with, you know, Fire, Public Works' recommendations. The other thing was possibly, you know, adjusting the highway to try to avoid the trees; but even that, you know, since it's a highway, higher volumes, you'd end up having to realign, you know, several thousand feet of highway just to make sure you have some transitions, which is, you know, not realistic for a DHHL project of this size. So based on the...there are also existing, like, site distance constraints. There's a horizontal bend here, so that affects where we put the intersections; and there's also an existing hump in the road, a vertical site distance constraint, right here at the existing drainageway crossing culvert. So based on those constraints, that's why it was decided to put the intersections where they are. When we met with DOT, they understood about why we put it in these locations for safe access, why we put in the...or are proposing to put in adequate deceleration lanes for those

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vehicles turning in and out. They had some concerns with the existing trees. As it was mentioned earlier, further down towards Wailuku in front of the Kehalani, you can kind of see the existing Monkey Pods ripping up the curbs and the pavement in the area, which is, you know, dangerous for motorists; it's also dangerous for the residents in the area. So when we went to the Arborist Committee, the State DOT, based on our discussions, they actually submitted a letter with their recommendations. They agreed with the fact that provide safe intersections, we needed geometric and site distance criteria to meet the Federal policies regarding safe access to the project. So they agreed with the proposal to remove and replace these existing trees in the road widening lot to provide safe access. They gave two potential options. The first was provide a tree that's...has less intrusive roots, since Monkey Pods do grow really expansive and there are cases where, you know, the trees are growing towards housing foundations in the area. And the second item was even just to remove and not replace these trees at all. Working with DHHL, the...it was a decision that...and based on discussions with the County Arborist and also Ernie Rezens, the Maui Arborist who put together the County's Planting Plan, that in order to provide the safe access, those 34 trees fronting just this DHHL property would be removed, but would be replaced one to one with new trees, new healthy trees. This is kind of a conceptual landscape plan. It shows our internal roadways within the subdivision with the street trees, and this is a segment along the highway. And these circles here, the black circles, are the locations of the existing trees. And as you can see, it's right where the intersections are and where we're trying to provide those deceleration lanes. And so what's shown in dark green are the proposed locations of the replacement trees. Zoom in on...so the way this exhibit is set up, the top are photos along the alignment of the highway fronting the DHHL property. The middle is a site plan view showing the existing trees as it relates to the proposed improvements. And then the bottom view is a blow-up of the previous showing, you know, where each of these trees, and the even spacing for the new replacement trees. So with regard to the new replacement trees, there has been a lot of thought and, you know, working with our landscape architect Mike Miyabara, also discussing with Ernie and also Tim, the County Arborist, and State DOT. You know, some of the proposed replacement trees are like a Rainbow Shower or a Royal Poinciana, which are common street trees. We're also looking at native trees, such as the Manele, something that's, you know, big enough to be consistent with a shade, street tree that provides some shade, but at the same time where the root system is not so intrusive that it will affect either the roadway or the nearby proposed residences. In addition, DHHL, in addition to the widening...sorry. In addition to the widening, they're also proposing to put a landscape lot, which is this kind of darker green shaded. And within that landscape lot, if you look at this typical section, this is the road widening that's required from the highway, these are the approximate location of the replacement trees, and then this is the landscape lot that DHHL would maintain to provide, you know, more of a buffer from the existing...or from the highway. And the proposal is to use native landscaping where possible, native ground cover with some accent trees at the entrances. And, you know, looking at things like possibly using Hala or Loulu at the entrances for palms, and then other, like, native ground covers. But the...as for the replacement trees themselves, these are some of the options that are being proposed. But we still would coordinate with the arborists, the Arborist Committee, and try to come up with a tree that will, you know, hopefully be native and also meet all the other requirements for

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these street trees. So the purpose of today was to be able to delist these trees and move forward with the project while still preserving the flexibility to work with the respective stakeholders on what replacement tree can be installed along the highway. And overall, the solution of the removal and the one-to-one replacement is kind of a balancing. We're trying to balance all the existing constraints in this area and also respect all the requirements and recommendations from all the different County agencies, State agencies, and respective committees, Council. So in closing, we just want to say thank you for the time, and the project team is here to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Okimoto. Mr. Miyabara, you have anything you'd like to comment to the Committee since you're the landscape architect on this project? Mr. Miyabara? Yeah, please unmute him.

MR. MIYABARA: Can you hear me now?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. Yes, Mike. You have any comments since you're the landscape architect regarding the project?

MR. MIYABARA: Not...well, you know, Denis covered it...I mean Darren covered it pretty well. And we did work with Ernie Rezens, and I believe he'll be moving back to Maui. And we did the look at the trees. We, you know, as landscape architects would always want to preserve trees, but the existing 34 are not like the other mature ones that have a nice canopy. The 34 are all in very poor shape, so yeah, we concur with, you know, removing them and replacing them. And we'll work with all the associated groups to come up with an appropriate plan for the highway. So yeah, it's a work in progress, but I think we want to just get through this initial step. I think it'll be overall an improvement for the highway and for Maui County. So that's all I wanted to add.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. You know what would help this Committee, Mr. Miyabara or Mr. Matsunaga? Tell us what is the purpose of the replanted trees. Is it to give shade to the cars driving on the road? Is it to be a physical barrier so nobody crashes toward the housing? Is it to take away space from bike lanes? Is...I mean, what's the intent of the trees? Just for a beautification project? I mean, I'm trying to get it, a sense of what you're trying to fulfill beside replacing the trees we're cutting down.

MR. MIYABARA: Yeah, I think. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: What is the general purpose . . . *(audio interference)* . . . the highway tree?

MR. MIYABARA: Yeah, I think...and, you know, Stewart and Darren, you can add to this, but it's really sort of a nod to the exceptional tree ordinance that we know that having the...a stand of trees are important, so we wanted to replace them, but not necessarily to replicate the Monkey Pods. I mean, the...we did look at the option of installing Monkey Pods, but I think there were so many, you know, negative issues that...and also, the community, I think, wanted to see more native trees, which we are, you know, in favor of. So if anything, I guess you would say it's more of an enhancement project. The

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shading aspect may not be the primary goal. I don't think we would be able to replicate a mature Monkey Pod, but it'll definitely be better than what the existing trees are right now. So --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, yeah.

MR. MIYABARA: --with that, Stewart --

CHAIR HOKAMA: We understand.

MR. MIYABARA: --you or...yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, no, no, I'm just trying to understand the Department's...one of the Department's comments is that they're willing to have no trees replanted, which is kind of interesting yeah. Not understanding the history of our plantings and our historical trees, especially of an older era of this County.

MR. MIYABARA: Right.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, I appreciate your responses today. And then for the Committee's understanding, this potential replanting area, landscape area, that is to be maintained by the homestead association? Or is that by State Highways' crews that's going to maintain this strip?

MR. MIYABARA: Chair Hokama . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: What is the intention of maintenance and responsibility? Stewart, Mr. Matsunaga, you got to take off the mute please.

MR. MATSUNAGA: Okay. Can you...yeah --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, we can hear you now.

MR. MATSUNAGA: --can you hear me now? Okay, mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah.

MR. MATSUNAGA: Mahalo. So in...when we were going through the discussions with the Waikapu community, it was brought out loud and clear that they don't want to see what they were calling the great wall of Waikapu. And so we were sensitive to that. So we wanted to create a...not a...we didn't want to create solid walls along the frontage, but we wanted to provide a landscape buffer, and this is...our commitment to that would be that DHHL would be responsible for the maintenance of the buffer area from between the highway right-of-way up to the lease lots. And so in the past we've had community associations doing that, but we've had mixed success. And so I think to provide continuity and to maintain this area because we want it to have an identity in the community, albeit no Monkey Pods, but to provide a green and open corridor through

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that area.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay, thank you, Mr. Matsunaga.

MR. MATSUNAGA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Sugimura, you have a question? And you can have a follow-up for this round.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Anything --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: --you'd like to ask?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: And then just also remember, Ms. Fernandez from the Arborist Committee also available. We have County departments and the applicant, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, everybody, for being here. So first, aloha to Barbara Fernandez, she's my neighbor. So thank you for all the work you do and your love and passion for our trees. I wanted to just say by your write-up, Chair, in this, it says that the...this is going to be beginning in the front of the Wailuku Public Library, which is right across the street from me, and the library and the Old Wailuku Courthouse, which is here. So it's going to start from the County Building and go all the way down? It doesn't quite look like it by your drawing. Oh, I see it, there's 290 trees, but these 34 trees are makai of the High Street or Well Street intersection, running south towards the intersections with Kuihelani Highway; except those trees, approximately 34 on the mauka side of Honoapiilani Highway fronting that parcel of real property identified as tax map key (2) 3-5-022:002, and in height of 54-feet diameter, 24 by 40 inches crown spread, 80 feet. So only from Kuihelani Highway down towards your project then is what we're talking about for the 34 trees?

CHAIR HOKAMA: You're correct.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's correct?

CHAIR HOKAMA: You're correct.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...oh, okay. So I hope that . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: I'm sorry, yeah, and I apologize, I should have checked earlier, but part of people's difficulty has been the way that the ordinance language has been proposed or is been written and needs to be amended. So yeah, I'm not too happy with how

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Corp. Counsel drafted this bill for this area of the Code. So it's something I'm going to work on after we deal with this item, Ms. Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And just because I grew up in Wailuku and these Monkey Pod trees have been such a big part of who we are, is really a statement when you're driving in or driving out of Wailuku, that I hope that we'll have an opportunity to do community outreach so that the people of Wailuku Town, you know, will understand what's going to come and what was decided upon and why. And if you're going to replace it with trees, I hope you never replace it with...because I went to college in Hawaii Kai. There were these beautiful shower trees, and it was forever having lots of rubbish; although, very beautiful when it bloomed. So and then in Wailuku Town there are some other trees that were parked on...I mean that were planted for the Market Street beautification project, and those trees also are...has a lot of rubbish; although it's nice up to a certain point. I think the trees that are by Mr. Dowling's offices are the nicest, but it wouldn't quite replace this Monkey Pod tree on Market Street. So whatever you decide, I hope you look carefully at the total impact. I love Monkey Pod trees, by the way. I used to have them in my yard when I was growing up and they provide a lot of shade, but I do know about their root. They're very...they can uplift or they're stronger than our asphalt, so they win when there's a tug with nature and our roads, so I think that's part of what we're trying to contend with. So whatever you decide, I hope you do a lot of community outreach to our Wailuku residents, especially in that old part of town, and so that they'll know what's happening. And I look forward to hearing any more discussion. I don't really have a question, I guess I'm having a lot of statements, but thank you.

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

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Mr. Okimoto, had a, had his hand up.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh.

MR. OKIMOTO: Yeah. Chair, I just --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Mister . . .

MR. OKIMOTO: I just wanted to clarify that as far as we understand, the existing Code has exceptional trees running from High Street all the way down to Kuihelani Highway. That's in the existing Code. So it includes the 34 that are fronting the project. And what we're trying to do is just delist just that 34 in front of the, you know, several thousand feet in front of our project, not going all the way down to Kuihelani. So I just wanted to clarify and make sure that the entire Committee is aware. So thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you for that clarification. Ms. Kama --

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: --you have a question you'd like to ask?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. I really enjoy driving on Honoapiilani Highway, and when you drive through the canopy of trees, there's something refreshing, there's something country about that. So when you replace the trees along that particular highway, will the trees be just as glorious and just as beautiful, or is it just going to be a stick? I mean, you kind of...I want to keep that ambiance that's there. So do you have an idea as to what that indigenous tree would be? Anyone can answer, probably the arborist I guess, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Stewart, anybody from your team can respond?

MR. MATSUNAGA: I think if we could get Mike on.

MR. MIYABARA: Okay . . .

MR. MATSUNAGA: We've been doing some research into what homes...excuse me, what plant stock is available and looking at the characteristics. So I...and I think I interrupted Mike. So I'll get off now.

MR. MIYABARA: No, no problem. Thanks, Stewart. You can hear me, yeah?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

MR. MIYABARA: So...can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

MR. MIYABARA: Oh, okay, sorry. Yeah, you know, we totally understand the canopy effect of the Monkey Pods, and I think Darren explained some of the constraints that we have in the...there's not a lot of room. So to put a tree as...that will get as large as a Monkey Pod, there's a lot of other issues that we were concerned about or are concerned about, you know, with the aggressive roots, litter, et cetera. Some of the larger native trees do have a lot of seed or nut drop, as well as leaves. So that's why we're looking at another type of native tree that will get large; but it's probably unlikely that it'll get as large as the Monkey Pods as far as the spread. But also, we're also hearing that there's a desire for kind of a diversity of trees. It's also stated in the Maui County Planting Plan, and we have received a lot of suggestions that we'll try and incorporate not only along the highway, but also within the...that landscape lot that's being created just to add more of a landscape buffer. So that may be a place for some of the maybe koa, koaia. But anyway, the final selections are not made. We will continue to consult with the community. So...but we're not putting in Monkey Pod, so I would not tell you that it'll be the same; although the entry into Wailuku is...we're not in that area, so that will remain. And so hopefully what we're doing is just enhancing the landscape along the highway.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Kama?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I don't have any other questions. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. And everything is by perception or perspective, yeah, Members, because anything from Waiko Road toward Wailuku is the beginning of Wailuku, so I count it from Waiko Road already, I don't count it from Kuikahi intersection. Ms. King, any questions you'd like to ask our development team or project team or department heads?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Yes, I just...so I thought...we're only talking about 34 trees, it sounds like, and I had two questions. One was on the disposal of them, do you have a plan? What are you...are you just going to dump in the landfill, or is there a plan for recycling those trees? Mulching them, using it as...selling them firewood or . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Mr. Matsunaga, Mr. Okimoto?

MR. MATSUNAGA: Chair Hokama, this is Stewart Matsunaga. We don't have a specific plan now, but we have talked about reuse of the wood. I think we're going to have to take a look at, you know, the quality of the wood because there are a lot of...there's a lot of just small branches and all. But some of the trunks may be suitable, so I think we're going to work with our landscape architect and talk to members of the community, and let's come up with something that, you know, it's...that the trees don't go to waste. And so we would love to be part of that discussion with our team and with the community. And, you know, we'd be open to coming back to the Committee with the plan.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, that's great. Thank you for that. And then the other question I just had, I guess, was clarification, Chair, and I think you had mentioned that this bill was not written the way you'd like it. But I'm just assuming that that number 256 is going to be reduced to 222, so it's just basically we're taking 34 trees out of there. And that's...that change is not on there, but that's the result of that. Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right. Right, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, yeah. Okay. Those are my only questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you. I'm going to...before I recognize Mr. Molina, Mr. Mike Molina; Mr. Jordan Molina, there is no requirements as you are aware, or Parks Department Director Peters that taking away or let's say, yeah, we're going to remove exceptional trees, must they be replaced by another species or something that will eventually qualify to be an exceptional tree?

MR. MOLINA: Mr. Chair, this is Jordan with Public Works. I guess the exceptional tree requirement is more than just a variety. You know, there's age, size, and other . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right, right, right.

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MR. MOLINA: So they may become exceptional at some point, but I guess it could be considered if we wanted to designate them early on. But that would, yeah, go through the Arborist Committee process for that kind of determination.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. No, thank you for that response, Director. I appreciate that. Mr. Molina, any questions you would like to ask please?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, upon hearing Councilmember Sugimura reminisce about these trees in her youth and everything else, it kind of spurred me to ask this question; so how old are these trees?

MR. MIYABARA: Yeah, we're not sure. This is Mike Miyabara. You know, early on when we talked to Ernie we couldn't really determine a date, but it's probably the...it might be closer to between 75 to 100 years old or close; in that range, anyway. It was planted during the, you know, heyday of sugar growing, so we're not sure exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, okay. Well, good, thank you for that information. And I appreciate the, I guess, maybe recycling plan or future usage of that wood because I saw that...what came to my mind was Monkey Pod bowls and tables and all of that stuff. So I think that's a good idea to, you know, salvage some of these trees. And it sounds like going to be a really big job removing 34 trees. Any timetable or how long it'll take? And I'm sure the public is going to have to be made aware of it. Two weeks, a week? Any guesses to remove these trees?

MR. MIYABARA: Well, as far as the actual time it would take, you're talking probably can be done within, I would say, two weeks at the most; but as far as when it would happen, I think there's still a little bit more processing involved permitting-wise. So maybe Darren, I don't know, Stewart, he might have a better idea of when it would happen.

MR. MATSUNAGA: I think it's best for Darren to chime in.

MR. OKIMOTO: Yeah, so I think because we're in the...the draft EA was published, we received comments, we're still addressing those comments, and then we still...if we do get the FONSI for the EA, then we would proceed to design and construction. So we're a little ways off, but that's something we could provide later as we get closer to that time. But it is going to be to try to reuse the wood, it makes sense, and it will have to be like a controlled because it is so close to the roadway. We want to make sure it's done safely and properly, so.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right, thank you so much. And I appreciate the educational aspect, getting the public prepared for it because you may have some people that'll have some very strong feelings about it. So at least people can be alerted early on to avoid any potential distractions with the removal of the tree I think will be certainly needed out there. But wow, 75 to 100 years, that's a long time, so. But thank you for the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you. It's got to be more than 100. I mean, just look at our age

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already, yeah, Mr. Molina. 1960 . . . in 1960, those were big trees already.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Big.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Just like we cut down on Pu`unene Avenue, they were monster trees already. Okay, so --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --they've been a long time, planted basically by, I would say, our great grandfather's generation.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Easy.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Ms. Paltin, questions you'd like to ask?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair, for my opportunity. I have a few questions. My first question is, would it be...I had a constituent comment to me if it would be okay if, to do more than one-to-one replacement since there were more along that area, but I guess they had been diseased or something or removed for some reason. Would that be a possibility, or strictly one to one?

CHAIR HOKAMA: That is something the Committee can consider as part of our approval if that is something you would like to consider.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: And then it's something we're going to need to talk to the development team, yeah, if it's something doable. Yeah. Because again, if that is what will help determine the Committee's final decision and then so be it, yeah. Because couple things I want you guys to remember; this is an ordinance, and we also had a request from, I guess, Ms. Fernandez and Arborist Committee; one of their comments is put the agreement in writing, whatever agreements we're going to reach to. So if that's the case, we may need to make some decision so we can have the appropriate documents prepared prior to first reading. I rather not do Committee work at Council, so, you know, I would prefer it that way if that's what the Committee wants, things in writing on the things that we agree to. Whether it be one-to-one replacement, two-to-one replacement, that it only be indigenous Native Hawaiian plants only, nothing smaller than eight feet to be our...for the replanting, it cannot be a seedling, it needs to be a sapling of minimum height or whatever you folks want, that, you know, I would ask that you think about those type of requirements if you want it in a written document as part of an attached exhibit to the approval.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. And then in light of your question that these replacements would not automatically qualify for exceptional tree status, I was wondering if there is anything that would prevent the new trees from being planted and then for whatever reason they die off, and then that's the end of it. Like what sort of protections are there for these new trees if they're not going to be granted the exceptional status? If somebody just comes through and, you know, vandalizes them or whatever?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right, right, right. I know. Ms. Fernandez, if you're still with us, did you folks have any discussion or had any comment to this concern Ms. Paltin has brought up?

MS. FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes. Thank you, Chair. We have very clear rules about exceptional trees, but thank you for that question. If the ones get removed, which of course in the exceptional tree document, it says if the trees are diseased and beyond repair, which is the case of these trees that we're talking about. There are regulations and discussion that needs to happen to confirm; and again, like I said in writing, the sizes of the trees. Can they be put back on again as exceptional trees? Yes, they can, as an amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And I had a question . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ms. Peters said that the Arboriculturist was on the line?

CHAIR HOKAMA: We have, I believe, Mr. Griffith, who is the County Arboriculturist available. So Mr. Griffith, if you may respond to Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I was wondering a possibility, I had this . . . (*audio interference*) . . . because the uplifting of roots, we don't want to plant any trees that uplifts our driveway as well. I'm wondering if it's a possibility to dig the hole really deep and then put the root ball below, and put, like, a PVC so that the roots would go way below the pavement? If that's a thing for Monkey Pods, like PVC in the area that you don't want uplifting.

MR. GRIFFITH: No. No, that'd be really bad, actually.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. GRIFFITH: Tree roots need to exchange and uptake water and oxygen, and they can only do that through so many feet of the soil. So planting them really deep would just kill them in a couple years. That's why we may lose that nice shaded corridor, is because we are limited in space. If we had bigger space, we could plant Monkey Pods further away from the roadway edge, and, you know, with proper watering, making sure that

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the surrounding soil isn't so compacted that the roots just want to stay . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that applies for all trees, not just Monkey Pods, about the . . .

MR. GRIFFITH: That applies for all of them, yeah, that applies for all trees. Yeah. The trunks, they're meant to stay dry above the ground; the roots, like I said, need to do the water and oxygen exchange in the soil. So planting them too deep or planting them too shallow could really either kill the tree or just, you know, stunt its growth and be an issue further down the road.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I guess...so my final question for DHHL, is there an idea of what is involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the trees? Like do you have a plan or a set thing that you folks are anticipating?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Matsunaga?

MR. MATSUNAGA: Our basic plan...thank you, Chair Hokama. And Councilmember Paltin, so the...there will be a landscape lot. It's a separate lot, it's not going to be part of the homestead. And so Hawaiian Home Lands right now maintains a lot of different areas on all islands, many which contain trees. Currently we're responsible for trees at the Leiali'i Parkway, and we are having issues with the Monkey Pods there that were planted by HHFDC. So...but getting back to the issue of maintenance, so we do have a maintenance program. And so we do have procurement of vendors to trim trees, you know, cut down the weed, clear out drainage areas. And so this is a, you know, responsibility of Hawaiian Home Lands. I mean, you know, every dollar we put into maintenance, we, you know, we also compete for that same dollar for lot development, so, you know, we really have to balance out. But we believe that it's important here in this new community of the Pu'unani Homestead, and so we want to create that green space and, you know, something that we can all be proud of as we drive through and we see this new landscaped, you know, frontage, and, you know, with our Native Hawaiian families in, you know, beyond that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I see. Thank you very much.

MR. MATSUNAGA: So yeah, we take on that responsibility.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair Hokama, for the opportunity. That concludes my questions.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. The Chair has been notified Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez will not be able to join us this afternoon, so as I earlier indicated, she's excused from this meeting. I'm going to ask a couple things, yeah. I really, I mean I like, I really like parts of the project. I understand our request is a little narrow regarding the trees, but you did, Mr. Okimoto, and thank you, regarding the restricted intersection as well as comments on the full movement intersection. And this is one of my concerns of Honoapiilani Highway, we're getting...a highway is supposed to move traffic, not find ways of how we're going to stop traffic with additional intersections to one highway

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system. That's why we do collector roads. That's why we do secondary road systems. And I can tell you, the full movement intersection I get issues with...because already at Pilikana, yeah, Pilikana intersection, it's signalized; and yet I've seen cars come out of that subdivision making left turns when they had red lights. Okay. That's the quality of our drivers on this island is zero quality. Okay. And so for me, I really don't like that left turn out of that, your proposed subdivision, because I can see enough pileups from our bad drivers coming out of there. And so I was wondering, did our departments ever talk about a more mauka collector road so that eventually between Waiko and Kuikahi, if this is all going to be filled out with homes in the future, why wouldn't we look, as part of our regional planning, since we have people like Ms. Sugimura, I think Ms. King on the MPO, looking at how we can really take care this regional transportation issue? Especially if we build out Kamehameha Avenue and make that what it's supposed to have been from design, four lanes as the true connector road for Central Maui. So if we're going to do these things...or are we not going to do these things is I think what I need from our departments, so that when we review projects like this we know what's...we really know what is going to happen. We're going to get gridlock, we're going to get more complaints, we're going to get more stupid accidents at the intersections because we never planned smarter from a regional perspective, and just looking at little pocket projects. So this is not about the Hawaiian Homes project team at all, this is about our Department of Public Works and Highways, it's about State DOT Highways and the need for them to have a better long-range perspective of how these projects and our infrastructure has to be better coordinated. And I'm bringing this up because a good project can be even greater to me if we just did better infrastructure planning, and this is one piece of our puzzle. So Members, part of my thing for...why I'm bringing this up is I want it on the Committee record, and part of my recommendations down the road as...because I'm going to recommend we support the request is that the subject matter be referred to at Council to the WIT Committee for future discussion. Because we're going to get more behind the ball if we do not start looking at infrastructure projects on a greater scale and do better planning than just full movement T-intersections. Okay. We're in the 21st Century; we're still looking at 19th Century solutions? Come on. We better than that. So that's my concern with the road, this road system for this project. I'll let the Members have one last round before my recommendation regarding the request. Ms. Sugimura, any –

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --last question or thoughts?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you for referring it to my Committee, that's fine. And . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, that's going to be my proposal. Yeah, that's going to be my proposal.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Proposal. Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your proposal, that would be a good proposal. And then...but I want to, as far as putting it in ordinance what kind of trees, I really would look towards the developer and our arborist and the team that the professionals, that they have to decide what kind of trees it would be. And I just want to say that whatever the replacement of the 34 trees are going to be and what it is, if we're going to put it in ordinance and it has to be that specific, I don't think...I'm...I should speak for myself, I'm not qualified to talk about trees in that minute, with that minute kind of knowledge. But I appreciate this discussion, it's really quite interesting. And I'm glad to see Hawaiian Homes, the 161 units. I'm really grateful to...I always hear about there's such a backlog, so I'm glad to see these 161 units. And appreciate Mr. Dowling for what he's doing along with Hawaiian Home Lands. So thank you, Mr. Matsunaga. I look forward
-- --

MR. MATSUNAGA: Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: --hearing more about this.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. I'm going to go backwards to just change it up a little. So Ms. Paltin, for this round, you have anything you'd like to bring up at this final round?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just saw Mr. Okimoto raise his hand when I mentioned the more than one-to-one exchange, and I was wondering if we could hear from him what he h-- --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --intended to say.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure. Mr. Okimoto?

MR. OKIMOTO: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Councilmember Paltin. What I was just going to say was we kind of looked at that. And looking at the existing trees now, some of the trees are spaced maybe every 10 to 15 feet, so they will...it seems like they'll never have the potential to grow to their full extent. So what we're proposing is to do the one to one, 34 trees, and then space them about every 50 feet or so, so that gives them the room to grow to their full potential. So that's all I wanted to say.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So does that mean that you would do a more than one to one, or you would recommend against it?

MR. OKIMOTO: So we would recommend the one to one, just the one to one, because that gives us if...based on the exhibit we laid out, we laid it out 34 trees along the frontage and still providing space at the intersection so there's adequate sight distance. And it's spaced out pretty evenly about 40 to 50 feet on center of the trees, the 34.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so then in that case, it kind of sounds like you decided what type of tree? Or what type of tree is that spacing based on?

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MR. OKIMOTO: It was just based on being able to provide that 40 or 50 feet between trees to provide more, but, you know, depends on the trees. Like I think you're hinting at, what type of trees. Because certain native trees won't grow as big as a Monkey Pod, but it's something that, you know, just to give adequate space between.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. For me, I'd just like to leave it open, I guess, depending on the type of tree. Like you said, maybe some don't grow as large, so maybe leave the door open for that until we decided on the type of tree. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you, Ms. Paltin. Mr. Molina, any questions you'd like to pose in this round?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Chairman, no, no more questions, just awaiting your recommendation. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you, Mr. Molina. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Just a...well, one correction, one comment was I'm not on the MPO anymore, but thank you for --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --assuming. Member Paltin's on it in my place. But...and I agree with Member Sugimura that we shouldn't prescribe what type of tree, that I'm hoping it will be native. But one of the things I did want to say about the canopy is that...and I think Ms. Fernandez will agree with me is it's been proven that when you have that shade that people drive slower, and so that's something to keep, you know, it makes it a safer road. So it's something to keep in my mind that, you know, to aspire to have that shaded road at some point, you know, and maybe not with the trees when you first plant them. But I think it's a safety issue because it has been proven that people drive slower, so I just kind of wanted to mention that and have you keep that in mind.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good point, Ms. King, because it does make me calmer when I drive through them.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No road rage.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, good point. Good point you brought up. Thank you. Ms. Kama, any questions you'd like to present? Ms. Kama, you got to unmute.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So are we to exclude fruit trees or food trees? I mean...or is that not even to be considered? That's one question.

CHAIR HOKAMA: I would say that they should consider whatever is within their parameters and if it's appropriate, they can propose it. I don't know, I wish I had one...no, actually, I don't want a 100-foot mango tree because then somebody going climb 100 feet, fall down, and sue me. So I guess I don't want a --

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --100-foot mango tree.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But I was thinking about how, you know, the kukui nut tree is a really beautiful tree, it's our state tree, but I'm not sure. But it's a beautiful canopy too. But just my --

CHAIR HOKAMA: You're right.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: --thought.

CHAIR HOKAMA: You're right. You're right, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. I would say I think there's some general consensus, we support indigenous vegetation and trees if at all possible. I mean hey, I would love to see more sandalwood, `iliahī from the islands. I would like to see more koa on the islands. I would like to see more kou on the islands.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aalii.

CHAIR HOKAMA: I mean, yeah, there's plenty native trees I would like to see more of, and maybe this project can assist us with DLNR's nursery program. So again, Members, my recommendation is going to be that we move the bill for an ordinance out to Council for recommendation for passage on first reading; allow Staff to make any nonsubstantive changes to the documents. In the Committee Report have a recommendation of referral to the WIT Committee regarding the traffic flow and road connectivity for this area. And again, Members, if you do have...make it known to the Chair, the Chair will support any amendment that you folks feel is required to have in writing regarding conditions or parameters of approval if you feel it is necessary. I don't have any to recommend at this time, but I'm open to the Committee's...of any Committee person's proposal. So that's my...yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would like to propose a minimum of one-to-one replacement in writing.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Mr. Matsunaga, you know, we've heard comments from you and Mr. Okimoto that that is something already as part of your intended approach to the landscape. So is there any issues or concerns if we made this a condition of our approval?

MR. MATSUNAGA: I don't see an issue from Hawaiian Home Lands if there's a written requirement of a minimum one to one. I believe that our landscaping plan does have some entry-type supplemental vegetation, so it's not just the trees that we plan to do,

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we also are doing ground cover landscaping for erosion control. And so there will be inter plantings of other maybe shrubs or not majestic trees because again, as we get closer to the homes, the root structure, you know, climbs uphill also too. So we need to be aware of that. But yeah, as far as minimum one to one in writing, I believe our Chair and our commission would be amenable to that.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you for that.

MR. MATSUNAGA: I don't know if Commissioner Awo might be on the call. I know he was trying to get in to BlueJeans, but...and I'm open to following up with Commissioner Awo on this matter.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, we appreciate that. And again, that'll be part of the working document with the implementing department, Mr. Matsunaga. And so the County is...hasn't been so inflexible that with justification, the County has in the past made appropriate adjustments to unforeseen circumstances. Again, you know, we assuming the ground is going to be all a certain way. And if you come up with subsurface issues that we are not aware of that needs to make adjustments, the County has been cooperative to try and work it out the best to implement the requirements of approval. So I wouldn't worry about it. Anything else, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll yield to other Members.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Well, thank you for that comment. If anyone else has anything else? If not, with that comment from Ms. Paltin to be incorporated in my recommendation, the Chair will entertain a motion to move the recommendation forward to Council.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So move --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: --with amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Second.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay, I have a motion by Ms. Sugimura, seconded by Ms. Kama, to move to the Bill for an Ordinance Amending Chapter 12.24A, Maui County Code, Relating to Exceptional Trees; to recommended to Council for passage on first reading, be ordered to print; allowing Staff to make any nonsubstantive adjustments and changes; and as well as a referral of the transportation road comment to WIT Committee; and the one-for-one replacement on the exceptional trees --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Count.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --as a requirement. Okay, any discussion, Members, on the motion as presented? Okay, with none, all in favor...yes, Ms. King?

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I just...I support the motion. I just wanted to say I'm glad that we're putting the one to one in writing because there's going to be a movement to plant trees in October of this year, you know, for climate change. And so I'd hate to be going backwards on this project and losing trees. So I'm glad we're putting our...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hear you, I hear you. Yeah, thank you. Okay, Members, no further discussion? All in favor please say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, opposed say no. Motion passes with six "ayes," one excused, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Did we need to file anything, Staff? I'll take a motion, a housekeeping motion to file any appropriate communications as it relates to HFC-59.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Second.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, motion from Ms. Sugimura, seconded by Ms. King. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion please say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Opposed say no.

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VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Hokama, Vice-Chair Sugimura, and
Councilmembers Kama, King, Molina, and Paltin.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Recommending FIRST READING of revised bill and
FILING of communication.**

CHAIR HOKAMA: Motion passes six “ayes,” one excused. Thank you very much. Mr. Matsunaga, Mr. Okimoto, Mr. Miyabara, the rest of your Hawaiian Homes team, thank you very much for your time. Ms. Fernandez, thank you for participating to the community as member of the Arborist Committee. And to our departments, we appreciate your participation on helping to move this housing forward. Okay, Members, we’ll take a five-minute recess and then start on the last item of the day. So please return in five minutes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We’re in recess. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

RECESS: **3:02 p.m.**

RECONVENE: **3:09 p.m.**

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Okay, aloha, everyone. We are back in order. This is the Healthy Families and Communities Committee meeting of July 9th. We are on our second and final item for the day, that is HFC-35. It comes under the heading of the Hale Makua Master Planning. Our Committee is in receipt of a communication dated December 20, 2019, from the County Clerk, relating to Grant Agreement G5051 for Hale Makua Health Services; and this is for the planning, design, and consolidation of the Kahului and Wailuku campuses, in the amount of 200,000. Today what I’m doing is we have been fortunate whereby the Islander Institute, under the leadership of Mr. Lo, has contracted them to go and seek a community assessment. And so they’ll be reporting on that this afternoon. And I’ll allow Mr. Lo at this time, our chief executive of the Hale

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Makua Health Systems [sic] to give us some opening comments regarding the current status. Mr. Lo, welcome.

MR. LO: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Councilmembers. If I may digress real quickly in regards to the testifier's comment regarding transgender. We'll be reaching out to the testifier, but we do have a nondiscrimination policy. It does not directly call out transgender, but it does...it provides for nondiscrimination. And we also receive Federal dollars through Medicare and Medicaid, and we have to follow those policies. We...so we will reach out to the testifier. We have had transgender individuals in our facility recently, and just probably within the last six months did have a transgender sensitivity training, which was prescribed by the Centers of [sic] Medicare & Medicaid Services. So...but we're always looking for...we appreciate the comments, and we will reach out and make sure that we find out, you know, if there was anything that we could improve on those efforts. So I just wanted to comment to that. So I appreciate the opportunity there. So again, thank you for having me today. We...I think I spoke several weeks ago regarding we had just received a draft of the health impact assessment. And you guys are in for a treat today. You got a smart, good-looking guy named Andrew Aoki, who will describe the health impact assessment. But I just want to talk real quickly about the genesis of the HIA just as a reminder. The health impact assessment, although its focus is on Kahului Community Center and the surrounding areas in Kahului and Wailuku, really the genesis of this was about looking at what's going to happen to our community as the baby boomers move through the system. Again, as I always tell everybody, we have not even started the tsunami of aging yet. The baby boomers are all around 60 years old right now. The height of the baby boomers -- that's me -- about 60 years old. And the 80 years old are at probably the lowest point ever in the history of the United States. And in 20 years, we'll be at the highest point ever. And so the HIA is going to give us an opportunity to think about this and plan for this. Because we cannot deliver health...and not...I'm not...I don't want it to call healthcare because I think right now we deliver sick care. But we need to deal with health differently because we cannot continue to deliver things like healthcare, housing, and everything the way we're doing it now with the...as the baby boomers move through the system. So with that, we got Andrew Aoki on, who is...and he has some of his colleagues on the line here who helped craft the HIA. And again, the HIA is not the master plan. And then so Andrew will describe it. And then we will talk some of our next steps, and make sure we keep you informed of our next steps. So Mr. Chair, if it's okay, I will turn it over to Mr. Aoki.

MR. AOKI: Okay. I'm going to take that as it's okay. So aloha, everybody. Aloha, Chair and Members. Really great to be here. And I really want to thank you all for a chance to present. And really, also the chance to be part of this project. And I want to acknowledge Hale Makua, they are a great partner in putting this together. And I want to acknowledge my team too, who did a lot of the interviews along with me. So that includes Karey Kapoi on Maui, as well as Brent Dillabaugh, and Laurie Au, who...Laurie's on this call as well. The first thing I want to make real clear real quick is what is an HIA, because it's not something that I think people are very familiar with. But to me, the easiest to think of a health impact assessment is it's a lot like an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, in that prior to doing anything, we want to think about the environmental consequences of what we do. And

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so this concept of a health impact assessment, which is not new actually; although, it's fairly new and rare in Hawaii. It's just the idea of similarly, we should think about what the impacts on human health are going to be before we do anything, before we make any big plans. And of course, environmental health is part of that human health as well. So that's really what it is. And so it's...yeah, going through this conversation you guys had about the trees was really interesting to me at least, and it's similar in a sense, right? It's we're thinking about the environment. This is a similar thing. As you guys envision plans for the future, what are the impacts of health? And just like with the environment, they're complicated. Sometimes you try to improve something on one end, and it makes something more difficult on the other end, right? So there's different tradeoffs and such. That's the idea behind the health impact assessment. So the way we approached this is the way we approach all of our work, which is we do want to talk with experts or people who are in positions of authority. And we did, throughout the County Government as well as different folks that work with this particular population, which we're interested in the kupuna, right? On Maui. But we also want to talk to people themselves. And so we spent some time forming groups of folks. And this thing, you can never talk to everybody of course; but it's really part of a process that you hope continues throughout, all the way through planning and implementation and all of that stuff. The success of the projects are always reliant on how good the relationships you form, and how much trust and common understanding you build. So we see this as a part of a much bigger process, much longer process. And there's much more to do, of course, in terms of ultimately planning that you all intend to do or oversee. So we had conversations with people. And we had conversations with kupuna. We had conversations with caregivers, park users, people that use the park, and to try to come up with a picture of what's going on. And actually one, you know, the testifier that you had earlier from Molokai, very...stuff like that. You hear stories of people, and I would say that the thing that struck me the most are these conversations or these stories of people who all of a sudden had to deal with an aging parent or in her case, like her tutu, right? Who...I mean, they didn't expect this and it happened so fast. And yeah, I heard her story, she made the call and then it was too late, you know, in a sense, right? And that is so common. And again, not just in Maui; anywhere. But really, we got to hear the stories of your constituents. And I think the one thing that stood out for me is how traumatic aging is, in that, you know, if one of us loses a friend, you know, passes away, that's very traumatic. If one of us has to move house, that's traumatic. If one of us lost a job, traumatic. Lose a spouse, right, run out of money. So imagine, like, for a lot of our kupuna, all of these things are happening about at the same time. And I think that's what stood out the most, hearing people's stories. And like most things, we're not that prepared. We don't think about it until it's right upon us. And so when we think about the aging challenge coming to Maui, really coming to all us, we really wanted to be able to tell the story and highlight just how challenging that's going to be. And so in the end, you know, you guys have a report, so you can read through. But we want to highlight, really, three things that stood out to us. And the first thing was this idea that how do we prepare kupuna, what foundation do they need to be able to live that life out like we say we do, we say we value kupuna? And of course in COVID-19, we're putting it into action. We're doing a lot of the stuff to protect our kupuna, which is a great thing. But if we want them to live that peaceful life, you know, to the end of life, what kind of foundation do they need in terms of housing, food, money, you know, companionship,

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activity? And how do we make sure everybody has that foundation? Because some people can get it all on their own, but others are going to need help. And one thing I want to just say here is Maui, you know, we do work all across the state, but Maui has some really great assets in terms of the kinds of programs you have for kupuna, and really, just the community spirit. I think it's a Hawaii thing, we all care about the kupuna. But Maui, you guys have something organized and it's palpable out there in terms of how people care about kupuna. So how do you organize that stuff to make sure that people don't fall through the cracks? So it's that foundation. The second thing I wanted to emphasize was that...and it was mentioned before, the greater and growing discovery that health is intertwined, all of our health is intertwined. So you can't just talk about the health of kupuna without talking about the health of the broader community. And I'll give you a specific example. In our minds, we think that one of the best outcomes would be for some families is that you would age with your family, right? And that your family would help take care of you as you grow old or frail or whatever. And of course, many residents are trying to do just that. But as one of the people we talked to noted, the health of that person is a direct function of the health of the family. If the family's not healthy, that person is not likely to be healthy either because they no more the time to take care of that person. They don't have the money. They themselves are stressed. They're facing a mental health issue. Overcrowded housing, all of these things contribute to the health of that kupuna. So the second point I wanted to just make is that the health of the kupuna and the health of the community are intertwined. You cannot just focus on one or the other. So if ultimately we care about kupuna health, we got to care about the health of everybody else, okay? And the third thing I wanted to mention was that this idea of the integration. Okay. So sometimes in our minds, we think okay, we're going to put all the kupuna all in one place, and there's reasons why we do that. There's efficiency; and of course, for a lot of the seniors, they only want to hang out with each other too. That's where their companionship is, and we can make things easier and whatnot. But what we're finding is that it's very important that we don't warehouse seniors or kupuna like in one section of the community. And that part of their health...and if you talk to them, part of their health is being part of the community, right? Not being, like, locked away someplace, but that they can go to the park. They can go to the farmer's market. They can go see a movie, you know, they can catch the bus. They can do those things too. So that integration of kupuna into community, that part of it is also very important. And based on those principles, we went and kind of looked at different strategies that came up in this process. And tried to make an assessment of the gives and takes of each of these things. The HIA isn't a blueprint, it doesn't tell you to do this, this, this, and this. What it tries to do is lay out some of the tradeoffs that planners need to think about and the community needs to think about when they ultimately make a collective decision. This is what we'd like to see. Whether it's in that park, but also in the community at large. So that's really what the HIA does. The one thing I did want to note because I think it's very important, because this is with regard to the park, yeah, Kahului park. I want to emphasize today, we talked to a lot of people that love that park, and that that park, this is where a health impact assessment is important. The park is creating health. It's creating community health now, which is important. So as things in the park get replaced, we got to think that's not a, you know, that's not a nothing. It's an activity there that is valuable to people is replaced, you know, that's a loss for those folks. And

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a great example is...one of the great things I love about that park is the slopes on that one side. One, because of course, people take their kids and they go slide down. And there are many, many generation of people who slide down on cardboard boxes down the slope. And it's a memorable thing. And it's important that communities have things like that that make them proud to be...or unique, like, that's our park. But also because when soccer goes on and such, it gives a place for people to sit down and watch their kids or their grandkids play. This is also about community health, right? So we try to note all these things so that as the planning goes forward, people who are thinking about these plans and people who are involved know that all of these things are acknowledged and that you have to balance this out. So what we laid out is a number of different strategies that could be considered as planning goes forward, and some of the different factors to consider. And that's the presentation I wanted to make. And I think the process going forward, I think it's off to a great start in terms of being able to continue to connect with people and build relationships so that this can be a shared success is really important. Yeah, mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Aoki. Mr. Lo?

MR. LO: You know, Andrew is such a powerful speaker and writer. You know, I do have some comments about next steps, but, you know, if I may defer, Mr. Chair, is if there's somebody would like to ask questions of Mr. Aoki on some of his findings.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, no, I just wanted to know if you had anything you would like to add at this point. Again, Members, my understanding is we have received the health impact assessment from Islander Institute. And I just want to highlight a couple of things that I thought was very important in this assessment. One, you know, they made it an understanding to the target group or the kupuna group that this is a long-term thing that is going to be semi-fluid since it'll cover a period of about 50 years, which is more than my remaining lifetime, I think. And then couple points I think Mr. Aoki also brought up that kupuna...the foundation for health is not just a kupuna thing, it is a total community thing. And the kupuna has its place in the community regarding basic health, as well as the...our young, younger ones, our babies, our infants, our toddlers, teenagers, adults. They are all part of a community circle. No one is excluded or outside of that circle. Again, I appreciate that Mr. Aoki reinforced that the kupuna exists as part of the larger community system, not a segregated or independent part of the system. And so I appreciate that. And I think one of the things that I got from your last comments, Mr. Aoki, and I'm telling you I'm integrated in my ways, that one of the areas that we have fallen short maybe in our development over the last 50 years of technology and economics is the social growth of the individual and the community for what is our island culture over that same period of time. Where, you know, my grandparents had no radio, no TV, nothing, and here we are, you know, bouncing things off cell phones and, you know, looking at Mars instead of the Moon. I mean, we've grown so much in areas, and yet we've been...we're so far behind in others. Like you said, or Mr. Lo said, you know, how can we talk about healthcare when we're really dealing with just sick care? I thought that was kind of profound, and a little disturbing for me to come to that reality, Mr. Lo. But I appreciate that candid type of comment. And then the last one I just wanted to share with my colleagues is that what I like about this assessment

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is...and then correct me, Mr. Aoki, if I'm wrong, is that this is driven basically by the clientele that we are trying to provide answers to, where they're telling us that these are some of their perceptions, concerns, and realities that they have to deal with that we need to be aware of. And so this is not departmental driven, and this is not Council driven, this is not Mayor driven, this is being driven by, as I read the assessment, the target group themselves, which I find refreshing. And I appreciate, Mr. Aoki, your outreach. Whereby what I'm reading, I get the sense that this is coming from the target group and not from us who think we know what the target groups wants. So I appreciate that very much. Ms. Sugimura, you have a question for Mr. Aoki or Mr. Lo at this time?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I love your report. I mean, this is so well done. And I'm glad this happened because I think...I'm glad you did this, Mr. Aoki and Mr. Lo, because I can imagine that although you're looking at this one place, I think it really applies to who we are for, you know, the whole island; you know, that if this can be used on a bigger scale, I would...when it's appropriate. Because this is a huge step that you're doing first time because we are so...our lives are so siloed, you know. So I would love to hear Mr. Aoki talk about the sense of place, which was in your report. Because I think that'll kind of embrace a lot of the concepts that you came up with for the impact. If you would?

MR. AOKI: Yeah sure.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Aoki?

MR. AOKI: First of all, you know, part of the challenge of this is the target group as you said, Chair Hokama, is the, you know, is the kupuna now, but it's also the kupuna of the future. And most of us, we're not . . . we're not really thinking about that, right? So in our conversations, in our talk stories, we always ask people, well, what do you think you're going to do, you know, when you grow older? And it's very hard to think about these things so far in advance. And so part of the concept is what does it look like when the...when a community embraces its kupuna, like, lays that out as our principle? And so we're going to try to do this together, right? And I really think Maui has a chance to be a model in a sense with this because you guys have been thinking about this for a while. Sense of place is like, let's think about that park, yeah. So, you know, who knows, maybe someday that park is going to have more walking trails, for example. Or it's going to have a farmer's market in there. Or it's going to have...right now it has the community center and people have parties over there, which of course have all kinds of people come over there, right? And that...those things, we just want to make sure people understand that they have actual value in making people healthy, happy, feel proud of where they are, feel more content. You know, be more able to deal with the stresses of life and things like that is when you have spaces like that. And this stuff is starting to really be researched and proven more and more that places and public places matter. So now with this HIA and the ability to think ahead, we can think, like, okay, how do we do walking trails where that both kupuna can walk and they can feel safe? Yeah. And they don't...not going to get run over by a skateboarder or whatever, right? And so make sure...how do we plan ahead to make sure it's open and welcoming to everybody? Because we want everybody to be able to identify with that place. So I think that was

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just an important thing we wanted to recognize was that I think there was some concern out there, right, with the bits of information that come out. Oh, are we going to lose our park or whatever? And I think it's important to say we recognize that public places are valuable. And so we're going to try balance all these different things. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Kama, you have a question you would like to ask at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. You know, I was looking at your housing options where you talk about, you know, kupunas wanting to live by themselves, but at the same time the wealth of the family who is able to have their kupuna living in place. And I'm thinking about that as we build senior housing and we build multifamily housing, but we don't seem to realize maybe sometimes that we should be building housing where the family can live and maybe something a little bit special off to the side for the kupuna where it's private, but at the same time still part of the group and not...so that it doesn't look like it's an overcrowded house, right? Because you want them to have their space and their place, but you want them to be safe because they're with their families. So when you wrote that in here, what were you envisioning?

MR. AOKI: Yeah, part of the reason in the data section where we put...we put the numbers of people because we wanted it to be tangible. Like we did 1,000 people, 10,000...how many people are we talking about in these different categories of people, so that we can start to envision how does this play out? With housing I think what we recognize is that there's got to be different options for different people. One, because you want people to have a choice; but two, because some people, it's actually...it's better to live with family. But how do you do that without overcrowding that house, for example? How do you make it not a financial necessity, but actually a good option for somebody? Other people, maybe they no more family, maybe they got to live in their own home independently. How do they upgrade their house so that it's safe? Some people, no doubt about it, best thing for them is senior housing, living with other, you know, other kupuna, getting to interact in that way. That's important too, but that's not the only way that you can do it, right? So I guess the thing I would say to you is that I think there's some planning that needs to happen about what's the array of housing options that we need necessary. But what we tried to think of is okay, for each option, what makes that possible? So senior housing, we know what makes that possible. You got to build it, yeah, and somehow people got to finance it, you got to build it. For living at home with your other family, what's needed? Who has to be engaged? Yeah, and this where like we say, health is a...everybody has to be part of it.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, yeah.

MR. AOKI: You got to engage architects. You got to engage contractors. You got to engage handymen and people like that, right? Whether it's for building multifamily housing or retrofitting housing for aging in place. So I guess, the main point I would say is, I don't know yet. I think some planning has to be done in terms of what kind of array we want.

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But I would just emphasize that having different options is important so that everybody can find one that's culturally appropriate and financially feasible for them, yeah? Including the options for people who are financially strapped, you know, but have family, can live, you know, and what makes that living arrangement healthy. I'll put it that way, right?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MR. AOKI: Everybody crammed in one room is not healthy. So how...what is a viable option for that family, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: That's right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Wes and Andrew. It's really good to see you again. I think, you know, I could probably talk to you for hours, but the last time that you worked on a plan that I was part of was over ten years ago. And you know which one I'm talking about. And neither one of us were able to see that through. But I'm really excited that you're working on this and helping...are you actually living on Maui, or are you still living on Oahu?

MR. AOKI: Oh, no, I wish. No, no, I'm on Oahu.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MR. AOKI: It's nice over here too.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I know, but it's...it's really nice. Because I see a lot of...from that previous plan, a lot of that philosophy in what you just talked about with this health needs assessment. And so I'm trying to distill it down to what I want to ask you about. And one of them is in your priorities, you mention things like violence against women. And we're seeing a higher...higher incidences of domestic violence nowadays because of, you know, because of the COVID-19, people are really stressed out. And so I guess my first thing is, you know, how are we addressing the effects of COVID-19? Is that kind of being worked into some of this needs assessment? Because, you know, we can't be in person with people and we can't, you know, it's a little dangerous to go visit face to face, which is, I think, one of the largest needs of the kupuna population. So what, you know, are there any recommendations or any findings that you can share with us that can help get us through the next six months of some of these struggles? And while you start talking, I'm going to plug my computer in because it's starting to die.

MR. AOKI: Yes. I think that...so first of all, those priorities that are in there, right, so this HIA is like a follow on to a community health needs assessment that we did that we released at the very end of 2018, which was much more comprehensive actually, and just very much more broad. And so it includes things outside of the...this one really was focusing

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on kupuna health, right? And that one was really focusing on the whole picture. But that was, in fact, one of the things that the data pointed to. I think the way I think about how this plays into COVID-19 is that as I think it is becoming more clear to people, our economic struggle is tied to the public health struggle, right? So that if public health is not taken care of, we're really...it really jams us up in terms of being able to have an effective economic response. And so in a way, I see that as terrible as the situation is right now, it's kind of an opportunity in a way to think about issues that are raised in this HIA; not just in terms of sort of health as we typically think about it, but it's really as recovery, as economic activity and economic recovery, in terms of meeting the needs of people now. The COVID-19 crisis is primarily about kupuna health because they're the ones that are at greatest risk of, you know, dying from this disease or having serious problems with this disease. So that puts the focus around that, right? So the question is, what are the things that they need? Well, this report actually talks about...and I want to make clear too, this report, it's not a plan, it's really an assessment, but planning needs to happen yet. A lot of conversation needs to happen. But it points to what...how...what kinds of support for our kupuna is needed. And it points to the fact that it's not just medicine, it's not just access to the doctors -- those are important -- but it's also things like making sure they're not so isolated that, you know, it's like a mental health issue ensues, for example. Or that they get injured at home alone. You know . . . different elements that are contained, I think, inside this report that you can pluck from. . . . *(inaudible)* . . . There's a lot of our COVID-19 recovery priorities mentioned in this report actually.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MR. AOKI: That's how I would think about it. The other piece is health...jobs in health and community health and healthcare. Obviously that's a big need anyway. Now might be a time to stimulate some of that because you're going to need these health workers just to get through the public health crisis.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I like that. And I think . . . and Wes talked about that last time you were here about bringing people in at entry levels and then trying them up. But, you know, which is happening, I think, in a lot of different industries right now is, you know, especially the health industry is they're graduating doctors earlier and putting them to work, and then letting them gain experience on the job. So, you know, I have a lot of confidence in this plan because I, you know, and with you two working on it, it's really comforting. I'm just below the level—because they say, you know, the 65 . . . the at-risk age is 65 and above—so I'm not...I think I'm where Wesley is right now, just below that threshold, but still considered a kupuna. So...which I wasn't the last time you and I saw each other. But I've gone through that stage, and now I have grandkids. And so what I'm really excited about is the attitude of trying to develop a place that where the relationships are a sense of responsibility on everybody's part. We're not separating, you know, different populations out, but we're trying to be more inclusive so that we see ourselves as one big family and we take care of each other. And I think that's going to be really important. Whether we're online like this or we get to the point where we can, you know, we can be in person with each other, it's really important to make that connection, to be responsible for each other and not look at it

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as somebody else's job or something that doesn't pertain to me so that we take . . . so that when we are sharing that shared space, that park, the facility, that we're looking out for each other and we're not worried about our own space so much as how we all fit together. So that's kind of what I'm getting from you too with your presentation. And I just think getting into this pandemic, the pandemic issues are going to be really important because we're, you know, we just passed a resolution to have a feminist recovery because of that acknowledgment of domestic violence and violence against women. So that's going to, I think, be a big part of...when I talk to especially people in mental health right now, they're saying that's exponentially incidences. So anyway, thank you for your...for being involved in this. And, you know, it just...good team here with you and Wes. So I'm really anxious to see what happens in the next...where...when the actual plan comes out after the needs assessment. Thank you, Chair. Thanks for bringing this review up too. Because I know we talked about Andrew last time, and everybody was singing your praises; and so having you come here and talk is really uplifting for me.

MR. AOKI: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you --

MR. AOKI: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Ms. King. Mr. Molina, any questions you would like to ask Mr. Aoki?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you, Mr. Aoki, for that presentation. You know, it's funny, years ago before, you know, I hit the senior circuit, so to speak, we also...I always used to laugh about things like AARP and so forth, but now I read that stuff religiously. And I wanted to ask you, as part of your...the health assessment, was the COVID-19 taken into consideration and its effects on the lifestyles of seniors? Or was all this data done way before? And just wanted to get your thoughts now how that's going to affect, you know, the recreational lifestyle of seniors and the...I guess, the integrating with younger folks. Because I know it certainly has changed everybody's lifestyles, but I think seniors, it's going to have a tremendous effect. Can I get your thoughts?

MR. AOKI: Yeah. Yeah. Well, so the field work began in December, so this is all pre-COVID. And we had completed most of it, and were planning to do a little bit more, and then the lockdown happened. So some of the stuff we really wanted to just finish up on got truncated. But for the most part, we completed most of this pre-COVID. I think one of the things we...there's a preface in this thing about our thoughts on COVID and how to read this report. And we thought about it a lot because obviously the world is different now than it was pre-COVID. It just is. And there are going to be a lot of changes and some opportunities. You know, our reliance on technology and things like that, the world's going to change. I think what we felt like it was fundamentally that the notions about what is health, what do people want in their life, those things haven't changed. The idea that Maui is a community that cares about kupuna, that doesn't...that hasn't changed, right? So in many ways, we felt like, if anything, reinforces some of the points

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in this plan. So we do recognize the...sorry, it's not a plan, it's an assessment. But it reinforces some of the points that we tried to make so that when they do planning, of course, you got to do it with COVID in mind, but the fundamental pieces are the same. And I just want to mention something you said about joining the senior circuit because one of the important considerations, again, is that we're planning for...you're planning for a generation of kupuna that don't...haven't been kupuna yet. And that...those...their needs, their desires, their abilities might be very different. So even when you talk about 65 is the cutoff of course because of Social Security and whatnot, but the 65-year-old in 2020 is very different from the 65-year-old of 1980, very different from the 65-year-old of 1940, right? In terms of . . . and just in the lifestyle, all kind, health, right, health status. So we need to think about that because I think in the very near future...one of the people I've worked with for a long time on aging issues talks a lot about active aging, right? And how people don't want to just sit at home and, you know, do nothing or whatever, that they want to have a purpose in the community. And so you got to think of kupuna not just as some burden on society, but like I said, just as active members of the community. And maybe in the decades to come, very active members. They might be providing...they might be in the workforce still yet. A lot of them are going to work until they're 75, right? Or older. A lot of them are going to be able to volunteer, right? So it's a very different population. And I'm not saying there's not folks like that now. But again, we should think of our kupuna as assets in the community, as contributors to the community. And you know what? If you talk to them, that's what they want to...that's how they want to be regarded as well. Nobody wants to feel like they're a drag, right? So that's what we heard a lot of those stories. A lot of those stories.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Right. Yeah. Certainly feel productive. And, you know, I saw on the news the other day a lady in...I guess she was working for a department of finance in some county in California. They were celebrating her 100th birthday. 70, the years I think she was employed as a county employee, just amazing. She turned 100 and still working. So I'm hoping to be like that someday, if I make it that long. But...and just on your final draft assessment, do you have any idea when you'll be completed with that?

MR. AOKI: It's final, the one that you have.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, this is the final.

MR. AOKI: I think –

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. AOKI: --you have it. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, this is the final.

MR. AOKI: That should be the final.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Okay, all right. Okay, thank you very much, Mr. Aoki.

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Thank you, Chair.

MR. AOKI: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Ms. Paltin, any questions you would like to ask?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Just you look familiar, did you work with Bob Agres before and Kua`aina Ulu `Auamo out Camp Mokuleia before?

MR. AOKI: Yeah, I'm totally guilty of that, yeah, association. Another Maui boy by the way, Agres.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, yes, yes.

MR. AOKI: Yeah, we're old-time colleagues. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . . *(Inaudible)* . . . work Kauai County now with my aunty. Research and development, I think. Thank you very much for planning for my future as a senior citizen in the future. Question is, when it comes time to make the master plan, is Islander Institute prepared to respond to that RFP?

MR. LO: Andrew, you want me to catch that one?

MR. AOKI: Oh yeah, sure.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Mr. Lo?

MR. LO: Sorry for interrupting. Councilmember Paltin, we actually...our desire is to have the master plan being driven off the H...health impact assessment. And we are hopeful that as we receive proposals, that this health impact assessment drives it. And I will talk about a little the next steps. I think I have discussed with Andrew if, you know, their expertise areas, their expertise, they are not--if I may, Andrew--they are not a master planning...traditional master planning company. I think as we scope it out, we will be writing a scope that will rely heavily on the health impact assessment and however they want to propose it. Now, I don't...I think we need to make sure that the community is involved through some of Islander Institute's recommendations, and we'll talk about a few of our next steps we're going to take to ensure that. But I know, Andrew, you can maybe expand upon that a little bit. I just didn't want to put you in an odd position.

MR. AOKI: Yeah. No, I just I want to share that of course, we believe in what we wrote, and we believe in those principles and those processes, and hope that they go forward. And certainly are willing to be part of it, as appropriate. I do think though, and I want to make this clear, to all the community work...I'm glad you mentioned Bob because we've been...I've been doing community work now for many decades now. But it's so important that it be owned by the community and led by the community, and we're very committed to enabling that and not become an obstacle to that too. So one of the things we talked about in terms of next steps is the importance of building capacity on island,

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you know, with true stakeholders. Like you mentioned, you're the future kupuna, right? That means you're a stakeholder, like a real stakeholder. You have a stake in how this turns out. I don't live on Maui, so in that sense I'm not a direct stakeholder, right? So our hope is to engage as many stakeholders as possible; not just to participate, but really to own the future of this, and to make the adjustments and have the conversations. Our belief is in all our time doing this work is the best outcomes are a product of good relationships, strong trust relationships, that you can work through all the problems and all the stuff that will inevitably come up. And so in talking to Wesley about next steps, we've talked a lot about how do we build the capacity and the leadership in the community itself to be part of leading this planning process, and also ultimately implementing it as well. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then a couple of more detailed specific questions. Can you explain KCCP acronym? The KCCP planning process?

MR. AOKI: Oh yeah. We had it known as the Kauai Community Center Park. Kauai Community Center Park. And so that's what the KCCP stands for.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kahului Community Center Park?

MR. AOKI: I mean...I'm sorry, Kahului. Kahului Community Center Park. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. And then I just was wondering as well why finding adequate replacement for any displaced current uses was in quotations. Sometimes that's like a suspect kind of . . .

MR. AOKI: No, it's in quotations because it...I think I know what...where you're talking about. It's in quotations because it's the wording that comes straight from the resolution that was passed in terms of the intent of the plan. Yeah. I just wanted to make sure that we used the exact wording that was in the intent of the resolution.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, you know, near and dear to my heart, when you're talking about swimming pool improvements for kupuna shared use, is that specific to Kokua Pool that you're referring to?

MR. AOKI: Yeah. So whatever activities happen...I mean, that's obviously one big question mark, is what happens to the pool, right? And a lot of people, of course, use that pool and benefit. And a lot of people mentioned too, you know, especially those that work with seniors, that, you know, a pool can be a very important asset, yeah, and very...like, for health reasons. And so it'd be great if that can get integrated in. Of course a pool is a finite area, so you can only crowd so many people in there, too, right? So all it meant to say is that I know that pool is big, so it sounds like it's very well used. It's very valuable obviously to the people that use it. That's very typical for pools in communities. Community pools tend to be super important assets. And so it was just to recognize the fact that there could be an added benefit for kupuna; but of course, it needs to be considered and balanced with the current needs that it already meets. Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, you know, a lot of your talk was about embracing the kupuna into the community. So when you talk about increased capacity for kupuna transportation services, are you talking about something separate from regular transportation services for the general public?

MR. AOKI: Could be, yeah, because for some kupuna, they need almost like door-to-door service, right, for certain things. Or they're living in congregate kind of situations, so they'll . . . they could . . . they all want to go, you know, like let's say they all want to go to the Maui Arts or something to see some kind of performance or something, you know. So I think from our fieldwork there, it's pretty clear that those transportation services that exist that MEO provides are very valuable. I mean certainly, to the people that utilize them, right? And sort of maxed out, right? So the projection is that the population is going to increase pretty significantly in this population. So the services now that might already be kind of tapped out probably going to have to increase, right. Something to think about. I mean, who knows what the future is going to hold, but this is something that needed to be talked about and considered was transportation services. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you for the opportunity. And I hope to continue to see you folks through the master planning process.

MR. AOKI: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Ms. Tsuhako, are you online with us at this time? Director Tsuhako?

MS. TSUHAKO: I am, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi. Yeah, Director, thank you for being very patient, and I apologize. I was going to...your benefit is you got to hear the questions and you got hear Mr. Aoki. I was going to ask, is there any comments you'd like to share with us regarding this item?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the report. It was very interesting reading. I think it's a very, I'd say, non-traditional approach to doing a community assessment. I appreciated the depth and the, I guess, impressed by the way that several different sort of community values were expressed and focused on. It was very compelling information. So thank you very much to Andrew and to Wes for that. I think Department of Housing and Human Concerns is involved in moving forward in how this health impact assessment is used to generate the larger master planning for the entirety of that parcel, working with Parks and Recreation to ensure that as the master plan is developed there's plenty of opportunity for community feedback, community involvement. And because we need to have buy-in. I mean, I think Mr. Aoki did a wonderful job of explaining the process that he and his colleagues went through, and how they solicited information. They integrated a lot of different viewpoints into this perspective on what should happen with this property. And I'd like to really encourage that process to move forward so that we have a good...this report is an excellent baseline to begin with. And I think, Mr. Hokama, you've been the one who's

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been really a champion for getting the community involved and listening to what people think that we're going to need going forward. And, you know, Mr. Molina and I are in the same boat. Yeah, Mike, you . . . we're getting old too, so we got to plan for our getting old. But I think it's a good perspective to look at. We're not just looking at what an 80-year-old looks like today or is interested in today, but really trying to project forward. And how will we as 80 year olds, you know, in another 20 years be different from somebody who's 80 years old today, or who's 80 years old in the 1950s. It's going to be very different. So thank you. And thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to speak.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Director. No, we are happy to hear your thoughts also. You are part of the circle. Like I said earlier, no one is excluded, everyone is part of the circle. And so you will...you and your Department will be an integral part of making this whole thing move forward as part of the total community. For Mr. Aoki, couple things. And I tell you, this assessment is a great motivator to have people start thinking, I would say as the Director mentioned, the uniqueness of outside of the normal parameters of maybe how we look at traditional approaches to healthcare. If you're sick, you go to some kind of institution: medical clinic, hospital, you know, those kind of things. But one thing I need for you to give comment on is what I would like to have as part of your assessment is two things, yeah. One, the actual demographics of this County, and the age pyramid. Because I have a great concern of the inverted dysfunctional pyramid where the seniors and the...and again, I'm past the 65, I'm on the upper end of the 65s. Okay. So I'm on the other side of the line from Mr. Molina, where I can tell you I appreciate your comments because I'm looking at myself next year as a retiree, not as a senior citizen, not as a kupuna. I'm looking at myself as a retiree. And I can tell you, until the day my father died, he only thought of himself as a retiree. He never thought of himself as a senior. Whether that's a good perception of reality or not, that's what's out there, yeah, Mr. Aoki, of how we look at ourselves. And my father made it a point that he was just a retiree, he was not a senior citizen; and to him there was a difference. I share that with you. So again, my concern of the distorted age pyramid. Can those on the bottom of the pyramid be strong enough financially, employment-wise, education-wise, to support what is going to be on the top, which is us, is a concern of mine. And then with that concern comes, of course, what will be then the financial analysis that we need to be real with to present to our community that this is what it takes to provide what you want without knowing the cost. You guys told us this is what you want, and now this is the cost. Is this something the community is willing to absorb as part of the whole? And I know that comes in the planning stages. But you have any comments for us at this time regarding those two points, Mr. Aoki?

MR. AOKI: Yeah. When I was going through the data and I was looking at the projections made by DBEDT, I really had to think about it twice. And this is where their...your point about . . . or how, you know, some of you had mentioned about how have things changed with COVID. You know, I'm not sure how these projections will change things, you know. Maybe people will move. Maybe people who were planning to move here won't be able to move. I say "here", I mean to Maui . . . maybe they won't be able to. Maybe people will have to leave for financial reasons. I think in some ways, like, that work has not been done yet, which is to think through these projections, and what does

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the future hold post-COVID. Because the other thing I think we need to realize, and I tried to say so, is that we have to admit that this is a financial catastrophe in many ways for governments all across the country, right, that are going to be strapped. So it's not like there's tons of money out there to go subsidize this, that, and the other thing. So, you know, it's very important, I think, to temper expectations and to remind ourselves that some of these things that we thought we know, we don't know any more for sure. So when I was looking at that data, I was thinking, geez, you know, I know it's fairly recent, but how reliable is it really going to be? And I don't know. I mean, I just to be honest; I don't know. I don't know who knows that. So what I would recommend too is that this is where trying to find win-win solutions or win-win-win solutions are really important. So if you can...if you know there's a care need, and if we can match that up with and we can create some jobs maybe, you know, to do that function. You know, and maybe it's in the construction folks or whatever with retrofitting homes, you know. Or maybe, you know, one of the great conversations I had with one of your high school principals and their staff, talking about how the high schools could really benefit from working with kupuna, actually, you know. Win-win, right? It's an educational experience, they get to learn. Perhaps that becomes a career choice; but even if it doesn't, they get to learn something and take it to their community. And maybe it makes them better working with their own grandparents or whatever, right? So looking for these win-win kind of opportunities, I think, it's going to be the trick in this very, very uncertain time. I'm not sure if that inverted...I know what you're talking about, about the . . . (*inaudible*) . . . you know, I think that's what's coming, but I'm not super sure right now, to be honest, you know, how we look at data.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right, right, right. No, and I appreciate that because I think you just gave us a very candid response. And most of us would say you're not off the mark at all, Andrew. Because the parameters keep shifting, and time schedules—depend who you talk to, right—varies between 3 months to 12 months and whatnot. So my...I appreciate that candid response. Mr. Lo, maybe you and Andrew, are you folks having some...are you guys going to toss out some recommendations or points of how we move forward from this assessment to a planning document format?

MR. LO: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. So, you know, as we read the HIA and the next steps--that's on Page 43--it calls out four basic things: is its core planning team, cross County department and agencies committee, community engagement, and partnerships. I think the core planning team is really the first step to community engagement. And, you know, I think that what we want to do as, you know, I had talked to Director Tsuhako about possibly using some existing grant money we have from the County, and it's within scope to start a master plan. But we started thinking about the master plan and the community engagement piece. And there's two things we'd like to move forward on, or we will be moving forward on and proposing through Department of Housing and Human Concerns is, number one is we want to form a community core planning team, which consists of stakeholders from the community. And this is not only the people that run the organizations like Hale Makua or Hale Mahaolu. I think those guys will be definitely important, except for the Hale Makua guy, but the other ones maybe. But I think that we also want to engage the people that things like COVID affects very seriously in their life and find out what's really going on. And have them be the conduit

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which the master plan is worked through and the HIA. So we need to start forming that, and we will...would love to update you on that as we form that. Because that needs to be sort of the guiding agency on this. And, you know, we will work on creating a project charter and, you know, to run that. The other thing is that we've talked to some foundations already, and we believe that we can fund either a part-time or a full-time person to do the community engagement and push this forward. I mean, I think all of us have daytime jobs too, and we need somebody to do this. And we believe...we have had discussions with private foundations to fund this, to keep us on track and forward. I've also had discussions with the community development financial institutions like LISC. And to just make sure that maybe there is a pile of money someplace in the future, that we're following a path that there may be access to that. And we're keeping them engaged in that. We just...I just had a call earlier this week with them to discuss, you know, just making sure, we're not looking for anything at this point in time. So we want to do that on the community engagement and the core planning team. And we want to come back to the Council and the departments to start figuring out how we work collaboratively with the County departments and agencies to ensure this. And it is a new process, so we do...we trip and stumble a little bit, et cetera, because this is a new process. And, you know, it's not really a Hale Makua thing, this is a Maui thing. And, you know, I do believe that Maui can be and will be...and you've talked to some of these people. This could be a leader at this and could be a project that the whole...the nation can look at, at this point in time. And we've heard outsiders tell us that already. So we want to move that forward. I do want to talk real briefly about partnerships and COVID-19. So many of these ideas, we have already been working on. We did have a discussion yesterday in the Mayor's Office. He's pulling together a team that...or some community members to talk about the response to the COVID-19 and how we do an economic recovery. And while we haven't got any conclusions yet, I think that like we talked last time is I think there are win-win-wins out there to service the kupuna, to do the things like the handymen and the entry-level jobs or displaced worker jobs to give them a path forward that we will propose. And I think that what I'm excited about it is if we take care of our health, it's not only a win for...I mean, it's...it can end up being sustainable because we waste so much money on healthcare right now. And I think that actually, by just redesigning the healthcare system, we can actually find money in the couches to fund it and sustain it. And there will certainly need to be some seed money to start it. But the idea is that if we can change the delivery system, we all know healthcare should be cheaper. We all know that we should not be going to the emergency room, we should be taking care of our health, right? We know that's the way to do it, and it's getting people to be out in the community supporting each other. So we are moving forward on that, you know. And, you know, irrespective of, you know, how our meetings go, we are planning that. We think there are jobs available that can bridge to a more sustainable newer economy at some point in time. Because as much as Mr. Aoki said is that we don't know what it looks like, I think we have to take ownership is that we can craft what the demographics will look like, but we have to choose to take...accept that as our responsibility. You know, if we wait and just let the economy run it, it will be what it'll be. But now I think we need to start figuring out well, what can we do to control our own destiny? So those are my next steps. You know, and I think, you know, the HIA is the base that we want to start from. We definitely would love to see any respondent to the RFP include interaction with Islander

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Institute, but, you know, we want to handle that appropriately. But thank you, Mr. Chair and Councilmembers, for letting me speak.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, Wes, thank you, Mr. Lo. I think you gave us a good update. And we appreciate you tying it into...as a planning response also, with the COVID factor that we gotta deal with in our daily business now, so I appreciate that comment. So this is what I got hearing from you, and I'll ask the Members if they have anything they might want to share too, is, I guess, to move it to the next step, listening to you, I'm thinking of a structure, something like the Hawaii Community Foundation structure. But it's...maybe would be the Maui Community Foundation instead of the HCF. And maybe drive it from that type of foundation structure. Is that something you guys looking at as one way to approach this? Or is that...or am I going way, too way off track?

MR. LO: Mr. Chair, my understanding, and I may not be as familiar with what you're thinking of, but I do think that ultimately, this is a community asset and it should be owned by the community and it should be driven by the community. And if we can create some form of governance, whether it's a foundation or something that's...that drives it. I mean, we're just the shepherds bringing it here to this point, and now we need to move it forward. You know, certainly we have our small piece of it, and healthcare is important.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right.

MR. LO: We are crafting the lens in which, you know, the Council and...crafting the lens in which we look at it. But we do think some form of governance structure is needed. And we also think...a word that they use from the, some of the large community development financial institutions, is we need a community quarterback, somebody that's going to run this and be able to push it forward with their whole goal and mission is around the park and the community. And so --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right.

MR. LO: --that's what you're thinking is absolutely, we endorse that idea. And we think we can find funding for it and we can continue to incubate. But our goal is not for it to be...this is supposed to be a community project, not a Hale Makua project.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, no, I hear you. And I think that is what most of the Members of the Council is looking at. We're looking at a community project. Not necessarily, like you said, a Hale Makua project. And I can tell you, I read the financial environment slightly changing now. You know, we talked in the past about those planes flying over us with cash and they're looking for a runway. Well, I believe now they're looking at us and they see a runway and they're trying to find the right aircraft to land the cash on the existing runway. So, you know, I share that because there's opportunities out there if we can make sure that they got the right carrier to land on what we have currently existing on this island. So I would say that the opportunity is there, Mr. Lo. Even in this dire economic times there are those still yet with cash looking for smart investments, and I think this might be a good project. Members, the Chair is going to defer this item. But

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if you have any last question you would like to pose to Mr. Aoki or Mr. Lo at this time, please make yourself known to the Chair. Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I just want to express my appreciation. I just love this, it's so inspiring. But I know listening in is Ashley Takitani Leahey. And I want to tell you that her energy is exactly what this thing is all about, right? So I saw her Thursday, last week Thursday and she had this printed. She handed it off, copies at the Mayor's Office and all of you could have copies. I'm sure she made for everybody else. And she said, oh, good, so everybody can read this on their holiday. But she is, like, so inspired by this. She loves working at Hale Makua. She loves working with Mr. Aoki. And I think it's that...that is who we're working for and, you know, besides Tamara.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, that is she's working for us, us old potential kupunas.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: She's going to protect us. But anyway, I just love this project. So I look forward to your next steps and hearing more. So thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Ms. Kama then Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Andrew, for this. Because you know what? You just gave me an idea. Not that everybody likes them, but, you know, we grew up...at least I grew up in an era where our grandparents didn't go to Hale Makua's because there weren't any Hale Makua's when I was a kid growing up. We took care of them at home. And yet, families still want that to occur. And yet, we have built lots of senior citizen units because we're anticipating what the future might hold. But also, I was thinking that it would be so cool if we would build a demonstration project that would have multifamily, and then you have the kupuna unit within the multifamily that has all the bars and all of the, you know, all the things that kupuna needs in the bathroom and in the room. More room, you know, wider aisles so that the wheelchair can get in or out or whatever. Because I think as we look to the future and how we build and what we're building, that we can't always be building the same way that we've done it in the past. That maybe we need to think a lot differently and be a little bit more innovative in how...what we create as we move forward. So I want to thank you for your housing option. Thank you for this book. I love it. And for the inspiration that you bring to us whenever you come here. So thank you. And thank you, Wes. So finding him, I know where you found him because I found him too. On the left.

MR. AOKI: Can I . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you very much.

MR. AOKI: Can I just say something to . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure.

MR. AOKI: So our many conversations in the past inspired some of that thinking. And there's a piece in this report that talks about what is the model of how we're supposed to age.

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And that for many of us, we've only had one model; it's the American dream or whatever, and you're supposed to retire and get your pension and live out your life and all that stuff. And so it's really important to make it known that that is not the only way, actually. And in fact, for many people, that's not the preferred way. One, it's not feasible for many people; but it's also not necessarily preferred. And that for a lot of people, working until they, you know, until the very...that when they die. Or for other people, living with their family. Or for other people...everybody is different, and we don't have to all conform to that one way. And so I think that's a really important finding that we heard from the community is to make it okay. Because you're right, if they're going to start planning now . . . like maybe for me, like, trying to start to think how am I going to live, where should I live. I can make some of those plans now, actually. You know, I have two teenage kids, right? And so maybe that's kind of conversations you want to start happening in the community, for people to start talking with their kids, talking with their parents about hey, how do we want to make this work? Because we no like move from Maui. That's the one thing we know. We don't want to feel forced to move from this place, so how do we make it feasible? What kind of a house can we build? And to provide that kind of support and assistance would be a great win-win for the community. So thank you for bringing that up.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for that comment, Andrew. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Thank you for that comment because I was going to say, you know, that's really not the way that I see it happen. I don't see people retiring, I see people...and in fact, I used to...when I was working full-time in our company, I used to wonder...I could never see myself retired because there's so much to do. Now that I'm on the Council, it sounds like a really good idea. I tell you, I can totally see myself retired now. But, you know, I see so many people that want to keep going and going. And the other comment I wanted to make was, and, Chair, you said this is...I think, or Wes, you said this is not a Hale Makua project, it's a community project. And I was almost kind of disappointed because I was really hoping it was a Hale Makua project because I can see it happen quicker if it was, like, focused like that. But, you know, I mean, it also has a broad stakeholder group, so I get that. And I think however we can help you, as a Committee and as a Council, move forward, you know, I'm willing to support it. I just...I did wish it was something that you were driving, Wes, because I have a lot of confidence in you and Andrew that you could get it done. So anyway, thank you for my...that chance to comment, Chair. I appreciate that.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Appreciate the good energy.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. King. Yeah. Anyone else? Again, the Chair is...with no objection from the Members, we're going to defer this.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. And if need be...I'll be talking to Mr. Lo. If need be, and there's a

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request from you, the Members, the Chair has also made time for our next meeting to continue the discussion with Mr. Lo and Mr. Aoki. So that's under consideration, just to let you know. Because I like this healthy discussion. And I think the community benefits by hearing us having this discussion and hearing for themselves what they have been saying to us through this assessment and the findings that Mr. Aoki has been able to document and share. So again, Members, this is a continuing discussion. Let's see what else I wanted to bring up. Yeah. So Mr. Lo, yeah, we would ask of you to continue your movement toward the planning document and preparation. Because that's going to be the next key document after this assessment. And I would say, yeah, I'm like with Ms. King; please, yeah, look at the Committee and the Council for venues when you need your support, as well as a ability to talk to the community about where the project is moving forward. With that, Members, any last comments? Or Mr. Molina, any update on the fire?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry about my birds, but we did get some . . . some rumors that the fire was spreading towards Kihei; but I just checked with Chief Ventura, that is not the case. I assume it's still situated in the same area towards Hana Highway. But there's no truth to that rumor. Apparently there was a Facebook posting that this person called the Kihei Police Department and stated that the fire is out of control and now moving towards Kihei. So that is not true according to Chief Ventura. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah, thanks for that update, Mr. Molina. Anything from your side, Ms. King, you may have?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, I was the one that saw that. It was actually on a social media called Nextdoor, and somebody had said it was out of control and going towards Kihei. So I'm really happy that...thanks, Mike, for figuring that out or checking on that. Yeah, this...things look closer...it's like, you know, driving in the car and the rearview mirror, things look closer than they actually are or something. So . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: I hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But I really appreciate the conversation though, Chair. I mean, I think we're moving in the right direction. I hope we move quickly and . . .

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you. Thank you. Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I have a question. So –

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: --I know that there was funding up to this point. So how do we

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move forward funding-wise or next steps? Because I want to make sure we don't miss a step. So any way that we need to support this. It sounds like it's happening.

MR. LO: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Lo, you have any comments?

MR. LO: So if I'm doing my math right, we have, from a previous grant, approximately 140,000 left. I do not know how much a master plan will cost. This is an unusual master plan because we're not having them...you know, we're having it driven by the HIA, not by some building, so we'll have to see. I do believe again, as far as the community engagement, and we're going to incubate some of the administrative work at Hale Makua. So we'll be doing a lot of the work here. Fine. But we are working on getting some funding for a person to actually, you know, under the guidance of this group to move forward. So we think that we can do that. If we are short money on the master plan, frankly, sure we'd like more money, but I think that we have so much interest from the foundations right now. And with your support, I think that we could have access to some additional funding to at least start the master planning process. And frankly, maybe helping us build an infrastructure to this. Now, their whole big thing is that it needs to be...there needs to be community engagement. In fact, they wouldn't even talk to us unless we had an HIA done. So that was sort of the start of the . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. And that's why, Mr. Lo, I think with us, you know, having this meeting today and moving now to the next phase, which is the planning document itself, I believe that should be a good signal to the foundations for you to be able to have that further discussion of possible future financing opportunities. So this is good stuff. Mr. Aoki, any last comment you'd like to share with us before we adjourn?

MR. AOKI: No, just to mahalo everybody again for this opportunity. And I'm very hopeful for Maui. There's so many nice opportunities. Oh, I want to make a quick mention, another one is food and feeding people. And another opportunity for a win-win to support your food system and feed kupuna who need good food at the same time. So construction, education, job creation, there's so many opportunities to keep the community healthy. And that's really our feeling, is how you build the economy is around your people. So just fantastic job on everybody's part. And I really appreciate the chance to work on your island. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mahalo, Mr. Aoki. Thank you very much for your part too. Okay, Members, thank you very much for your presence today. Thank you, Mr. Lo, again, Mr. Aoki, on this health impact assessment. With no further...this item is deferred with no objection, Members?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KRF)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, the item is deferred.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.


CHAIR HOKAMA: And, oh --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No objections.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --thank you, Mr. Molina. So, Members, with no further business, thank you very much for being here. We are adjourned. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

ADJOURN: 4:31 p.m.

APPROVED:



RIKI HOKAMA, Chair
Healthy Families and Communities
Committee

hfc:min:200709:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATE

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

DATED the 12th day of August 2020, in Kula, Hawaii

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel Schoenbeck", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel Schoenbeck