

# HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

## MINUTES

October 22, 2020

Council Chamber, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**CONVENE:** 1:34 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Riki Hokama, Chair (out 3:20 p.m.)  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama (in 1:38 p.m.)  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina (out 3:20 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Kelly Takaya King

**STAFF:** Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney  
Shelly Espeleta, Legislative Analyst  
Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst  
Wilton Leauanae, Legislative Analyst (trainee)  
Rayna Yap, Committee Secretary  
Lenora Dineen, OCS Assistant Clerk

Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
Tasha Kama  
Trinette Furtado, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani  
Rawlins-Fernandez  
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
Kelly Takaya King  
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
Riki Hokama

**ADMIN.:** Linda Munsell, Deputy Director, Department of Housing and  
Human Concerns (HFC-74)  
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the  
Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Cathy Moriarty (HFC-74)  
Susan Graham, President, La'akea Village Board of Trustees  
(HFC-74)  
Jessica Pazos (HFC-58)  
Taysia Kaleleihua (HFC-74)  
Faith Chase (HFC-74, HFC-58)  
Lisa Darcy (HFC-58)  
Dave Rodgers (HFC-74)  
Joanne Hopper (HFC-74)

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Sonia Gupta (HFC-58)

Tina Oman (HFC-58)

Debbie Cabebe (HFC-58)

Deanna LaFlamme (HFC-74)

Sarah Menzies, Executive Director, La'akea Village (HFC-74)

Raymond Cabebe, La'akea Village (HFC-74)

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

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CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha, everyone. Welcome to the Council's Committee on Healthy Families and Communities. This is our regular meeting of October 22, 2020. Wow, 22, 2020, that's pretty good. Today we have two items we have agendized. Of course, the first one is the La'akea Village request under HFC-74. And the second one that we have also agendized for additional discussion that we have is HFC-56 [sic], which is, of course, under the Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Related Issues Under This Committee's Jurisdiction and Authority. So before we start, we'd like to just ask anyone who would like to share public testimony with us to please make yourself known, signing up. We provide you with three minutes to speak on each item that we have agendized. Please state your name. If you represent an entity, we would request that you also share that. If you are a paid person or any lobbyist, legislative lobbyist, we would ask that you please disclose that to the Committee for information purposes. And, let's see, the Members may...will be asked if there's any clarification of your testimony, and their questions regarding your testimony. So with that, we going to open it up to testimony. And I'm going to ask Lesley if we have anyone that would like to share testimony with the Committee, please. Oh, excuse me, I am very sorry and apologize for not mentioning the Members present today. So my apologies, Committee. I'd like to recognize Vice-Chair Sugimura --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- first.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. I would like to welcome our Committee Members, Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good afternoon, Chairman.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon, sir. Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha auinala, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha e. And, of course, my colleague from Moloka'i, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha auinala, mai Moloka'i nui ahina, Chair. And, again, our thoughts and prayers to the Lāna'i community.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mahalo nui. Aloha e. The Chair excuses Members Kama and King regarding their attendance this afternoon. Ms. Kama may join us later, but Ms. King has commitments, so she's excused from today's meeting. Lesley, if you would please announce our first testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair. Our first testifier is Cathy Moriarty.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you.

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

MS. MORIARTY: Hello.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. MORIARTY: Hi. I'm calling in on behalf of the Friends from La'akea. I'm a former employee, I worked there 2016 and then 2018 and '19. I left the day after Ms. Menzies was...became the executive director. I left because that day my daughter happened to be the program director, and she resigned after Ms. Menzies was appointed. And that same day Ms. Menzies came at me with interrogation...basically, I felt like I was being interrogated with what I knew about...I was just an employee, I didn't know anything that went on in the office. My daughter was my boss, basically. And I've moved. I've been gone almost two years, but I'm still very close with everyone there, participants and former employees. So I've been kept abreast of what's going on, which is very concerning. I'll...when I did work at the house, there was...it just...it went downhill fairly quickly with Ms. Kohler's tenancy there. You know, the cleanliness and just, she was hardly ever present. There was also inappropriate behaviors going on between staff. And I know it's just hearsay, but I was also told that, you know, she was having inappropriate relations with male staff there. It was just a really bad situation. Unfortunately, I did leave before I came one of those disgruntled employees that were fired or let go or whatever, but I'm just concerned about the allegations that were forwarded to me and so I just hope that the right decision is made pertaining to this, and I just wanted to just...I'm completely for the Friends of La'akea right now and for...what's going on there is just very heartbreaking to me that I have such a huge love for everyone there. I just...I hope that it's appropriately handled.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your testimony this afternoon.

MS. MORIARTY: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Members, any questions? And again, I'm going to be very narrow on what I'm going to permit since under personnel issues, this Chair is...that's not the

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jurisdiction of this Committee, personnel matters. That is between their board, their approved manual of operations, and their employee handbook, that the board is required to review and adopt on behalf of the organization. So we'll have a report of status from the Department after testimony, Members. So with that guidance, okay, Ms. Paltin? Any question, please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just wanted to clarify, it wasn't clear to me what you thought was the appropriate thing to happen, or the right thing to happen. I mean, you said...

MS. MORIARTY: As far as what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Huh?

MS. MORIARTY: Appropriate as far as what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You...one of your last statements is you just want to see the right thing happen, but I'm not clear what --

MS. MORIARTY: Well, there's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that would be.

MS. MORIARTY: -- a lot going on there. I read that the...you know, the DOH laws say, you know, no more than one group home on any site, and, you know, what's being posted is that this is going to be 18 homes, and one as a group home. What about...what's going to happen with the rest. If one group home right now isn't being cared for well, what's going to happen when this huge thing happens on the land? So I was...it was meant for our participants for our community there. And this, it's just...I don't...what I've been being kept informed is that the participants aren't being cared for properly. It's just a lot of allegations. And unfortunately, I'm not there. I got married and moved out of the...moved out of Hawai'i. So, you know, I just hope that...you know, I'm not sure what the process is going to be, I'm just voicing my concerns and what I found when I was there. And what I found prior to all this change when Ms. Menzies was appointed executive director, it was a very different place. Like I said, I was there in 2016 and, you know, it was a great place to be. My reason --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. MORIARTY: -- for leaving was because of her approach with me was just completely inappropriate and uncalled for. It became a hostile place for me when she came at me, you know, questioning me on stuff about my daughter that was the program director. That was inappropriate, you know. So I quit on the spot. I'm not...you know, what my daughter did then had nothing to do with me. No relevance. My daughter was basically my boss. So --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, okay.

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MS. MORIARTY: -- her approach at me was completely wrong.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for that. Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, thank you --

MS. MORIARTY: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Member has a question for our testifier this afternoon? Seeing none. We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments with us.

MS. MORIARTY: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: I'd like to recognize Ms. Kama joining us this afternoon. Thank you, Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Lesley, our next testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Susan Graham.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Hello?

MS. GRAHAM: Can you hear me? Oh, hi. Hello.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. We can hear you.

MS. GRAHAM: I'm trying to get my video on. Oh, hold on. There. Thank you. Thank you, Chair Hokama.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. GRAHAM: I appreciate your comments about the purpose of this specific meeting because my understanding is it's primarily concerned with our lease and how we're managing the property that the County has leased to us. And I am...welcome any questions on that when the time comes. You know, I see that there's many more testifiers on behalf of the Friends for La'akea today, and we take the complaint seriously. Most of this stems from a particular period of transition in La'akea's growth and life, and I'm happy to deal with any of these complaints within the appropriate committees and licensing agencies. Right now, we're in good standing with the Department of Health. We're in good standing with the Labor employment agencies. Yes, we have dealt with complaints and have worked through those. We have no outstanding issues with either of those agencies. I did reach out to Friends for

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La'akea and asked to meet with them. None of them would meet with me. And I'm disheartened by this public forum as a place to make statements that we have no way of defending at this forum. People can say all kinds of things, and it's hard to disprove them once they're said and repeated. I'm sorry for the split that occurred at La'akea. We owe the former executive director, and the former board president, and all the people that were there on the ground level and got La'akea to where it is, but there have been books written about the growth of organizations from the founder's board and entrepreneurial leadership to a more mature organization. And La'akea went through that growth a couple of years ago, and it caused a very acrimonious split that is still affecting us to this day. And I welcome any of the agencies that are licensing agents, I will welcome any of the Committee Members to come on site and sit through one of our morning circles, or be there for any of our activities. I don't like the he said, she said. I don't want to delve into the drama, particularly at this Committee level. So the invitation is open for any of the Committee or the Council to come and observe La'akea at any point and speak to us. So that's my testimony. And I will be available at the resource part of this for any of your questions also. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you very much, Ms. Graham. I see that we have some Members with some questions. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a quick one, for the record, you're President of the La'akea Board of Directors?

MS. GRAHAM: Yes, I am.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo.

MS. GRAHAM: And I have been for about, I believe, four years. I've been a board member a little longer than I've been a chair. I was there with the previous administration, and I've been with the current administration also. So I've been there through this tumultuous time, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Ms. Sugimura, then Ms. Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was going to be my question, how long as she been with the organization.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. GRAHAM: I believe I started in 2014. I think I became board president somewhere in 2015 or early 2016.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I had two questions. The first question is so

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if you're the president, is the...Ms. Menzies still the executive director?

MS. GRAHAM: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you. And then the second question is, when you say you tried to meet with Friends of La'akea, so you're the president of the board of directors of Friends of La'akea, and then --

MS. GRAHAM: No, no. I'm sorry, I'm the president of La'akea Village, which is our legal name. I'm the Board President, we have 13 board members. When we received the complaint letter, it was signed by a group called Friends for La'akea. I reached out to those seven people. Two of them answered my phone calls, one person said, everything had been said in the letter and they didn't want to meet. No one else got back to me. So I did reach out trying to speak with them, but I didn't get...they didn't want to meet, or they didn't respond to my phone calls or emails.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then just to follow up. So the Friends of La'akea isn't a formal entity to do with the village, La'akea Village. It's just a separate group?

MS. GRAHAM: Yes, it's a group of people who feel...they're dissatisfied with the current administration, and feel they were...it's a bit like a divorce, and they are part of the party that supports a different administration and a different board structure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, but it's not a non-profit...

MS. GRAHAM: It's not a legal entity. No, it's Friends for La'akea. They, you know, are in contact with each other. They share the same concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, but they don't have any tie to La'akea Village or the board of directors?

MS. GRAHAM: No. They're former employees, friends...no. There's no...no. There's no...I'm not sure I'm understanding. There's no legal connection. La'akea Village has a board of directors, and is licensed by the Department of Health. Friends for La'akea is a group of people who are dissatisfied with the current leadership.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you for that clarification, it helps me a little bit.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Ms. Graham. I'm sure it must be very difficult for you to be here. So I just have a couple questions. Were you there at the very beginning when La'akea was organized early on in the 19-somethings? Okay. Okay, that's okay. Also, can you help me to understand what kind of a license does La'akea Village have? Whether it's a...what kind of a home, if it's residential, institutional, if it's a dom home or whatever. Can you explain that?

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MS. GRAHAM: I'll do the best I can. I am the Board Chair. I am not as well versed in program and licensing as our executive director is. You might have to ask her those questions. We are a dom home, and we are licensed by the Department of Health. We're a Medicaid waiver provider, that's where our funds come from. Our participants all have caseworkers and individual service plans. And from what I know, it's...the Department of Health is our primary licensing agency.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: How many clients do you serve?

MS. GRAHAM: Right now, 17, one of which is my grandson. So I became involved primarily because I have an adult with developmental disabilities, and recognized the need for programs and housing.

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

MS. GRAHAM: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Anyone else has a need for clarification? Thank you very much, Ms. Graham. We look forward to you during the actual discussion of the item later. So thank you for this testimony at this time.

MS. GRAHAM: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Les, our next testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Jessica Pazos.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Hi, Jessica. Can you...

MS. PAZOS: Phone on here...hi.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We got that.

MS. PAZOS: Yeah, sorry. So I submitted testimony for the housing and human safety. I'm not sure if this fits in with this discussion if you'd like me to go now or if you'd like me to wait until we move to that section. I submitted...sorry. I submitted written testimony just on behalf of concerns over the closing of rental assistance programs and the obvious need for people in the community. I'm sorry. I am the Islands of Hope resource navigator, which is a community collaboration with KC Family programs, Ho'oikaika Partnership, and Child Welfare Services. So I do resource navigation for folks looking for resources in the community that can help them meet their needs. I primarily focus on children and families who are at risk of entering child welfare.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. PAZOS: So just we have been working pretty closely with the folks at 211, and with



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Councilwoman Yuki Lei to try to help link people with services, and we were just noticing concerns over folks not hearing back from rental assistance applications. Also that now the Catholic Charities program has closed, and we are just worried about what happens when the eviction moratorium expires, what the expectations of families are when most are working on little to no income, and if there is a plan in place to preserve housing for those folks who might just have to leave. And, you know, I think that we are at risk of, like, a much broader public health crisis if those needs aren't addressed in the community, and especially for those with young children. So I'm not sure if that fits in in this section, but I'm happy to share. I have collected some survey data from individuals in the community, and then just my own personal experience attempting to navigate these programs. And people just really not being able to even qualify because they're either not able to show sustainability, which is almost impossible in this moment since we have a...you know, almost a 30 percent unemployment rate. And then now that things are opening back up, how are families supposed to go back to work without a easy, redible [sic] access to childcare. Especially for school-age children who don't necessarily meet...you know, who wouldn't qualify for child, or early childcare. So I'm just here to voice my concerns. I just sense, like, an impending crisis and, you know, I just work very closely with folks in the community. I have a lot of feedback from individuals, and I just want their voices to be heard because many don't know that, you know, one voice matters.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your comments, Ms. Pazos. Every voice...and so we thank you for sharing and expressing for those that cannot express themselves as well as you did this afternoon. So thank you for sharing. Yes, this definitely would fit under our second item, under HFC-56 [sic], your comments. So that is how the Chair has received it, and that's why the Chair allowed the testimony. It fits under our second item. And I appreciate you bringing up those concerns because they're very important questions that this Council would try and provide as much answers to our community as best we can within our level of authority. So any...Members, any questions?

MS. PAZOS: I'll go back if you'd like. I'm happy to circle back when you get to that item. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: And again, Ms. Pazos, you know, it is my intention to bring back this item and have a fuller discussion again. (*Audio interference*) our Committee, I'm sure our general community understands the Chair is slightly distracted because of the Lānaʻi COVID situation currently, and so I made a commitment to Laʻakea to have them provided their time today, and we'll do what we can as best with the second item that you spoke on, Ms. Pazos. And so that's how we'll approach it, Members and Ms. Pazos. So yeah, thank you very much for sharing. They were very important questions, and it was very timely because I met with a credit union representatives of this County yesterday, and they told me one great thing, basically membership of credit unions are saving money. They're not pulling out money. And of course for the credit unions, that's an issue, right? Because they don't make money if they don't lend money or invest money. But it says something about their membership, they're saving as best they can. And because I was told a lot of them are aware that eventually, back rent is not forgiven debt. Eventually, you know, plans and terms

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need to be paid on how we can help them make payments, and yet still retain housing. So I appreciate your comments, Jessica, they were right on the button. And this Committee and the other Members of this Council are very concerned about what could happen to the community, so we thank you for your comments. Members, any questions for our testifier? Ms. Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Jessica. I appreciate all the work that you have done, as we've met before. And the same sentiments that you've just expressed, I share that, and I would like to do something about it. So if you and I can connect later, you know, past this Committee meeting. So thanks again. I hear you, I really do. I'm really concerned also. Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, I believe Ms. Paltin had a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair, I just was clarifying, you meant HFC-58, right?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, thank you for the correction, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Was 5-8.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Okay, thank you. Thank you again, Jessica. Appreciate your time. Lesley, our next testifier, please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Taysia Kaleleihua.

MS. KALELEIHUA: Okay, aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, aloha.

MS. KALELEIHUA: So I wanted to bring up a few things. I'm actually a local here, I grew up here my entire life. I've lived in Paia my entire life, and it's exhausting to constantly see buildings go up and we not hear about it until later on. And I've been watching this company for years now. I've seen, I've drove by, I've been on the property, and they have changed within the last two years alone. They are not what they used to stand for. They do not have gardens, they do not have...they are not a farm. They are not any of these things that they first intended they put out that they were going to be. And that's where I'm...my first red flag is obviously going up because if you've gotten this land donated or given to you or whatever it is, and then you're not using the land the appropriate way that it was given to you for, that's where I have a problem. And I feel like this is a constant thing happening, and I'm not foreseeing a bunch of buildings go up, especially if it's not going to benefit people that it really needs to benefit for. So yeah. On top of that, the laws have changed since 2005. And with that being said, I'm just confused on how they're trying to build these 18 homes, and

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who's going to be living in these 18 homes, considering they're only putting up one for these special needs adults, and you can only give like 25 percent or something like that. So I'm just confused on where this land is going. It's been a constant thing for years now, and it's been a constant thing that I've been watching, that they're kind of unsure where they're going with this land. And I actually went there before when they were first bringing up proposals to build and this and that. And I told them my problems with that, and it kind of got swept under the rug. And so I just want to follow this project through and make sure that our land is not going to get taken for granted like, that's just how I feel about this proposal, is they're very unsure with what they're going to do, and it's like been constantly like that. And the uncertainty is where I'm not with this, like...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Kaleleihua. Thank you for sharing your concerns. We appreciate your interest in your community, in your neighborhood.

MS. KALELEIHUA: Absolutely.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We definitely appreciate your comments this afternoon. Thank you. Members, do you need any clarification on Ms. Kaleleihua's testimony she shared with us this afternoon? Okay. Thank you, Taysia. And again, you know, if you can continue to watch us and, you know, we'll be discussing the item of your interest, so we would be happy to have you continue to observe and listen in to the meeting.

MS. KALELEIHUA: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, mahalo. Can we have the next testifier, please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Faith Chase.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair Hokama. Aloha, Committee Members.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, Faith.

MS. CHASE: Yeah, I'm sorry to hear about Lāna'i. I'm following that, blessings as Councilmember Rawlins expressed. I echo those sentiments. First, I truly hope that La'akea Farms works out their kinks. The original premise of the idea was just outstanding, and I plan on following this community concern. I'm glad it's going to be brought up again. Moving forward to HFC-58. So I believe it was the EDB Committee last...week before last, where the ranch...those tourism, that specific tourism industry of trail rides, those concerns, those entities that came forward. I stayed throughout the whole meeting, and at the very end, if I remember correctly, there was a verbal commitment with quorum from the Finance Director saying that these entities would be able to receive some support. There was just so few of them, I wanted to say three or four at the most. And from what I understand, following up with each one of them, they have just gone into a complete circle of nowhere. So I just wanted to bring that to

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your attention. Whether it be the Finance Director, you know, massaging some language that's specific to, like I said, a small portion of those that are affected. You know, maybe if it's the Finance Director talking to EDB. I'm not sure, but I plan on following up with a email correspondent, but...with email correspondence. But I'm really worried about this industry, just having ranching roots and understanding animal husbandry and what it does for the land overall, those...you know, those contributions are limitless. But also, because there are so few that are in this area, it's not like as if you could...I believe that you don't have to have that sort of overlaying concern where oh, if we help this one, oh, pau, we're going to have to help how many, or...it's not like that. There's just a handful of them. And so I'm very concerned about them. We're talking about animals. And so I just wanted to bring that to your attention, and you'll probably see the correspondence come across your desk. In however fashion or form we can follow up and just, you know, muscle this support for them, I would really appreciate it. And that's all I would want to contribute today. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Chase. And again, yeah, I consider your comments very appropriate under this Committee's Item 58 since it is part of the pandemic issue. But I will tell you that I believe it was under our...the leadership of Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez and her Budget Committee that had discussion earlier. And since Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez is also a Member of this Committee, she has heard your comments, Ms. Chase. And I'm sure that I'll defer to her Chairmanship and her Committee jurisdiction since she already has the item to follow up after hearing your comments this afternoon. So thank you very much for sharing that, Ms. Chase. We appreciate you speaking up and stating those concerns.

MS. CHASE: Mahalo. I'm not sure if anybody has any other questions. But in closing, if I still have a little bit of time, I understand that there's some testifiers after me that will be speaking to some concerns of a...some harassment that happened down on the area that you all know that I'm very concerned about, Amala Street near Kanaha. And so if you'll just...I would just...I just, please have your ears, you know...lend your most compassionate ears to those testifiers as they speak. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you, Ms. Chase. That's what we're here for this afternoon. We're here to listen to our community share their concerns and thoughts with us. Thank you very much for your time this afternoon.

MS. CHASE: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, mahalo. Ms. Lesley, our next testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is signed in as Andrea. Andrea, you're muted on your end, so I can't unmute you. I guess we'll come back. Our next testifier is Lisa Darcy.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you.

MS. DARCY: Good afternoon, Committee, can you hear me?

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Ms. Darcy, thank you for --

MS. DARCY: Oh --

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- being here.

MS. DARCY: -- thank you. It's nice to see everybody in Hawai'i time, and really nice to be back. My name is Lisa Darcy, and I represent Share Your Mana. I've returned to the island after about seven weeks on Saturday night, and have been out and really just being present with the changes and trying to ascertain what has gotten stronger for people who are unsheltered, unhoused, houseless, and what has not helped them healthy and economically. And there are a couple of striking observations that I'd like to share. And I always appreciate everyone listening because this is really...it's difficult to solve these issues, so I really appreciate your time and listening and being creative. And one of the...I'm still observing quite a few people who've not even been able to access their stimulus money. And, you know, I think everyone knows how concerned I am about the lack of internet and data and just access to this kind of forum simply because they don't have any...you know, they can't go into an office, they can't get this kind of an audience. So not being able to access their stimulus money and access other agencies that, you know, you can only get appointments online. I'm watching people's health deteriorate significantly. Physical health, and it's striking to be away and come back and see, gosh, how much weight has been lost and how downtrodden people are. I would also have...there's an emotional impact to this pandemic, which doesn't ever get any data that's captured on it. And I was down at...spent the entire day down on Amala Place and down on Kanaha. And last night there was another sweep, and it was a citation sweep. And officers...three cars came down, multiple officers in the evening at night, got people out of their cars, and started just citing everybody, giving them tickets. And this is not something that ever comes up on our radar as being part of people's health, but it's traumatizing. It requires them now to have to figure out how to pay these citations when they don't have any money at all. And I was witnessing people hiding behind cars because they were afraid. They were being asked for their IDs. It feels like an interrogation, and we don't have a way to really capture how unhealthy this is until I think you actually go through it. And I just want to make this governing body aware of the amount that this puts people behind financially and emotionally, especially during a pandemic. And I got a ticket as well because I was witnessing, so they actually went back and found my car specifically and ticketed it. So I just want to...you know, I want us to somehow find a way that we are working together, and I really don't have any sort of understanding of how this, during a pandemic, keeps our community healthy. And so I guess really I have more questions than answers, but I just want to note...to let you know that it is traumatic to go through this.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh.

MS. DARCY: And people go through it. And they've gone through it...and I know it was swept down there. And the cost that it takes to replace the items that get thrown out.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah.

MS. DARCY: You know, we don't...you don't have to do that in your house, you know. You don't have to worry about someone coming in and taking things and throwing them out and then you have to replace them. There's time, there's money, and during a pandemic, that is not an easy thing.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes...

MS. DARCY: But I just wanted to share that, and that I have...you know, still, I haven't really seen anything that's moving these lives forward in keeping them safe...excuse me, safer. So it was...really left me shaking last night. So yeah, again, I --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. DARCY: -- seek your guidance and help with this, and for people who have no way to share their voice on this. So thank you very much, and always wanting to be part of the solution somehow. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Darcy, for your comments this afternoon. We appreciate you sharing those experiences and your outreach to help others. So thank you very much for what you do. Ms. Paltin, you have a question please. Tamara...please unmute, Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. Thank you, Ms. Darcy, for your testimony today. I just wanted to clarify, if you don't mind...if you don't want to share it with us, that's okay as well, but I just was wondering, what was the citation for?

MS. DARCY: Oh, yeah. Actually, I should say, it's unclear. It says I parked in front of a sign. And I am...my car's backed in in front of the...this is a wildlife refuge sign. It doesn't have a...none of the citations have court dates, none of them had really clear, you know, places to go forward with this. Mine had no court date, mine had...it just said that I was parked in front of a sign. It wasn't...it's not like I was in front of a no parking sign or anything else. Yeah, it's peculiar. It was very strange. It was very strange. So I don't know. I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So the citation was from the Police, but you don't think that you have to...it's like a fine or something where you pay money or you go to court? It's just like the Police let you know that you were parking in front of a sign?

MS. DARCY: Yeah. Like I said, it doesn't make any sense, and it had the...marked off the \$35, I somehow...it's a, parking in front of a sign is \$35. I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...

MS. DARCY: There's no parking sign, it wasn't in front of that. I took pictures, you know,

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I'm clearly behind the line from the road and off. It's...I don't know. And yeah, I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the Police didn't give you any sort of explanation of like, where you pay the money or what happens if you should not pay the money?

MS. DARCY: No. In fact, none of the citations have any information going forward, and that really left everybody very concerned and confused because if they can't pay it, or if it's overdue, or what are the...you know, how do they contest it? There's no information on any of them that have a follow up for this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. DARCY: So that costs a lot of time and effort for people to try and track that down, and what does that mean. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe also, if you wouldn't mind emailing a copy of it to the Committee so that we know...get a better picture of it --

MS. DARCY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if you don't mind.

MS. DARCY: No, I don't mind. Yeah, the...

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Ms. Paltin, yeah, upon receipt we'll do the appropriate distribution to the Members. So thank you. Thank you, Ms. Darcy, for your comments this afternoon. Appreciate it.

MS. DARCY: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lesley...oh, I'm sorry, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, did you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a quick one. Aloha, Ms. Darcy, mahalo for your testimony. I just wanted clarification on the response that Member Paltin...well, actually, the question Member Paltin asked and then the response. Was the question what citation you received, or did it include what citation others received as well?

MS. DARCY: Okay, so yeah, I'll tease that out. So the citation that I received was unclear. It had no follow up, no...it just said I was parked in front of a sign.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. DARCY: When I helped review the other citations with many of the others...and I didn't

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get to everyone because they...I mean, they were there for...they worked their way down. So I didn't get everybody's citations, but probably the five, eight citations that I did see, there was also no follow-up information on how to resolve it. And the other interesting thing is I'm the only one who, of the people that I saw, that got an envelope. I guess you get the envelope too, like, to send it in. Like, send your fee in, but nobody else got envelopes. I'm the only one who got an envelope. Which, you know, time and money and COVID, you don't want to have to go...not that they have a mailbox either, but...or stamps laying around but, you know, at least I got an envelope, I got an unfair advantage getting an envelope.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Darcy. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for that. Anyone else, Members? Okay, fine. Thank you again, Ms. Darcy.

MS. DARCY: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lesley, if you would please.

MS. MILNER: Chair, our next testifier is David Rodgers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. RODGERS: All right, am I unmuted? Hello?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. RODGERS: Hello. Thank you for listening to my words. My name's David Rodgers. I don't...can't seem to get my camera working, it just says video is turned off. Oh, do I do it up here? Yeah, okay. All right. Can you hear me? You said yes, right?

CHAIR HOKAMA: We can hear you, Roger [sic].

MR. RODGERS: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: I mean, David.

MR. RODGERS: So I'm here to talk about the La'akea lease with the County.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MR. RODGERS: I have been in the project, I was in the project in 2003 when we had our first event. I volunteered to do all...quite a bit to help that event. And I've been with them until recently when our son was kicked out during COVID, out of his home, which I believe is against the Federal mandate. They...when they took over the foundation about four...two years ago roughly, they kicked out my wife, the executive director and founder. Saying no reason, they're not going to say why they kicked her



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out. Then they turn around and say they are transparent. And so anyway, they changed the mission statement when they took over. And they took out the word "for", because it was the mission, the lease says that it's land for special needs people, adults. And they took that out, and they said now it's just going to include special need people. So that's a vague term, they can do pretty much anything, they're only allowed to build one house on one...per TMK that's for a group home, and then they can do some, like, HUD housing, but only a small amount. So that means the rest of the buildings are going to be for them. And they've got a slick logo that they put in when they took over that looks like a real estate development logo. In fact, the word village itself has come to mean real estate development. You look it up, there's a low income housing, you don't have to look it up. You know about the one in Lahaina that's called the Village, and it's...the cheapest house is over \$500,000. So that's...you know, you're going to have to have a pretty good job to pay that mortgage, but it's still low income. But that's a different subject. Anyway, so it's unknown what they're really going to do. That's my point. They can't build a village for special needs people because the Department of Health won't allow it. So I have a written thing, I don't know if you want me to keep going, that's pretty much...my main point was it's no longer...their mission is no longer to build a village or...and it's supposed to be a farm too. That was the other word that was in the lease. It's supposed to be a farm place, community. And indeed, what was the La'akea Foundation, known as La'akea Farms, and we did have farmers. And since then, you know, they just have a couple gardens and they're trying to say they're a farm. But anyway, they...you know, they took over, everyone left. That's a different story. But so they took out pono from their values, which I'm sure you know is a metaphysical Hawaiian concept. Sometimes they translate it to mean balance, but that was in our core values, and it's now been taken out. So it's a new group. They took over, I believe, hostilely. They fired the person while she was disabled. They couldn't wait to get rid of her in their hostile takeover. That's my opinion, I've been there since...you know, since the La'akea was a non-profit 501(c)3 held by in a filing cabinet by a woman that created the foundation that was married to a guy here in Hawai'i, you know, they have a daughter and stuff. And she left the foundation early on and started her own. You guys probably knew her. She left on her own accord, and then we built what is there now on the property, the buildings...there's a few buildings, like a barn we built for the farm originally. He put his tractor in there. And now we've started a kitchen, and they abandoned the finishing of the kitchen project after they, you know, took over. And they have half a kitchen. And they got a farm, we built a farm store, but then that's, you know, closed and stuff. And...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Rodgers, in complete, I gave you more than three minutes.

MR. RODGERS: Oh, yeah, I should shut up. You know, I apologize for going off.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, no. No apologies...

MR. RODGERS: Well, they changed it. And now it's going to have a couple special needs people and...if they build that thing, so I'm not happy. So thanks for your time.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: No, we appreciate you sharing your thoughts with us this afternoon, and putting in the time to speak for us. Ms. Paltin, you have a question for Mr. Rodgers, David?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My question for Mr. Rodgers was, you mentioned that...was it your son got evicted?

MR. RODGERS: It's not called evicted because it was a group home, and they have special rules. And they actually sent us an email saying, we're going to exercise our right to not tell you why we're kicking him out. And then they say they're transparent. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And this was during the emergency proclamations during the coronavirus?

MR. RODGERS: Yeah, it was only a couple months ago. And --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. RODGERS: -- before that, they accused him of touching somebody that was off the airplane. And we have like four witnesses that have been taking care of him saying that no, he hadn't been within 20 feet of the guy, and they still put him in quarantine anyway, just not trusting their own employee and their other witnesses.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And I just was wondering if you had brought it up to the entities about being removed from the housing during the emergency proclamation, like you said, I thought that was illegal.

MR. RODGERS: It's supposed to be a Federal mandate, but they said they could do it because it wasn't like an eviction. He lived inside of a group home under a different contract. But it still amounts to displacing someone from their home during COVID, so I don't even know how they think they could do that, but they claimed they could. But they also said they didn't have to say why, which is pretty weird, that their Mister...transparent great organization over there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you didn't follow up with any lawyer or any other entity?

MR. RODGERS: We followed up like crazy, you know, there may even be a lawsuit. Who knows, I don't know. I mean, it's probably going to have a hard time getting a lawyer for something like that. But there's...you know, it seems like that would be a case, you know, it's supposed to be a Federal thing, right? Why are they violating Federal mandate?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. RODGERS: Because he's special needs --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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MR. RODGERS: -- you know, like, what are they doing?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, you're repeating yourself. We've already...

MR. RODGERS: Yeah. I repeated myself. Sorry, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Rodgers. Thank you, Chair.

MR. RODGERS: They knew he was special needs, so I apologize.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, no. No apologies. Again, we understand it's a very...

MR. RODGERS: I'm a little animated. Pardon me.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, we know it's important to you, Mr. Rodgers. We appreciate the depth of your comments. Anyone else has a question for the gentleman? If not, thank you again. We appreciate you making the time to share what you thought was very important for us to hear.

MR. RODGERS: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lesley, our next testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Joann Hopper.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, Ms. Hopper, can you hear us?

MS. HOPPER: Okay, can you hear me now?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. HOPPER: Okay. I don't see my video either, but...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, we got you.

MS. HOPPER: Oh, okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We got you on.

MS. HOPPER: Okay, good. Great. Yeah, just thank you very much for taking my testimony and listening to me again. I appreciate it very much. I wanted to make a clarification. Councilmember Ms. Palatin [sic] last time asked me something regarding COVID and some of the things that had happened, and most of what I had described was pre-COVID, you know. These were things that had begun many, many months before, you know, the concerns over the lack of cleanliness and the quality of the food, things like that had been going on for quite some time. The only thing that I was speaking of

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regarding the COVID was my daughter being yelled at with her aide because they hadn't really...they hadn't at all explained to us how we were supposed to proceed with the COVID...I mean, any new regulations, but they didn't want Hannah at the house, and so on and so forth. And so I wanted to clarify that. And then the other thing that I didn't...I did write to the Department of Health, and I've written in other letters, was that at one point Hannah's aide, Deliah Browning, came to me and said that La'akea decided that they weren't going to pay her for taking care of Hannah overnight anymore because if they did, they would lose money. That's quote, unquote. Now, Hannah has a budget from the County, and that money's there. And I encouraged Deliah to go forward and say, look, this isn't right, you know, that...and she was afraid. She didn't do it. She wouldn't complain. It really wasn't my place, you know, I can't speak for her. But it's ridiculous. It's wrong on so many levels. They can't just decide they're not going to pay her for overnights. So I wanted to make that clear here as well. And I've spoken with Melissa regarding...to the Maui News regarding this, and again, it's in my letters to the Department of Health, but it's just...it's not good. And I'm the person that Ms. Graham was talking about, you know, everything I've written is in the letters. I don't see a whole lot of point in hashing things out. There's...at this point, a huge lack of trust, and I need my daughter in a really great forward-thinking forward-moving, happy, upbeat place that's just professional. A place that's concerned with taking care of my daughter, you know, we need...we as a community need to take care of these people at the same level or better than we take care (*audio interference*). Because they can't. They can't speak up for themselves. They need the best care that we can possibly give them. It's only right, it's only human. They...now...so there's a level of trust there that I just don't have at this point, and I have a terrific system for Hannah in place, I don't see any point in going backward. And yeah, my only and last concern is that yeah, going forward, I mean, they've made some changes and things are different, they say, and so on and so forth but, you know, who's watching in the future? You know, how do we maintain this? You know, if things have really changed, it's got to stay changed again. This is 1,000 percent about the participants, about the participants and their connection to the community, and a really great, wonderful, powerful, and wholesome way. And if that can't be established, then there's no point, you know. It's about them and their needs and their futures. And I thank you again for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Hopper. We appreciate you sharing your thoughts this afternoon with the Committee --

MS. HOPPER: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- very much. Thank you for your daughter. Members, any questions for Ms. Hopper to clarify her testimony with us? Okay, we'll be taking up the item after testimony, Ms. Hopper, so...just so you are aware. But thank you again for --

MS. HOPPER: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- joining us this afternoon.

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MS. HOPPER: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Les, our next testifier, please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Sonia Gupta.

MS. GUPTA: Hi, everyone. Can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can see you too.

MS. GUPTA: Hi, thank you so much. And my heart really goes out to all of these people struggling for people with special needs. Thank you for everything you've been sharing, and I fully support the mission. I am a hospital based dentist, I treat people with special needs. I'm also the mother of a two-year-old, and I was here to talk about the COVID effects on our health and the increasing report that I've had from my patients of being affected by secondhand smoke during this time of COVID-19. I'm on multiple groups with physicians and dentists, and everyone I've talked to in healthcare is supportive of a Countywide ordinance to ban smoking in shared housing complexes. And I have received multiple reports from patients and people with the Tobacco-Free Hawai'i Coalition that are suffering even more right now during this time of COVID. Because people are working from home. And if they're smoking at home, they're smoking potentially all day if they're chain smokers. And keiki are doing distance learning from home, and kupuna are home with their families or taking care of the keiki. And they're all suffering from secondhand smoke, and it just has to stop because it's an easy solution. If there's already a Federal mandate to ban smoking in multiunit shared housing, like apartments and condos, we just need a mandate for all other housing because everybody who has an apartment has a right to breathe clean air. I understand that people do have a right to smoke or whatever habits they have, but if it's affecting somebody else, and if we're sharing a roof in condos and apartments, then these keiki and these kupuna should not be affected by it. Especially because it does decrease your ability to fight off respiratory infections or viruses, such as COVID-19. So we already know there's a strong association between smoking and COVID-19, and as the research is coming out, it's showing more and more of the association between secondhand smoke and COVID-19. And the Surgeon General has already reported on all of these negative effects of secondhand smoke on babies, such as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. They have weaker lungs, they're more prone to asthma attacks, respiratory infections. Adults are more susceptible to cardiovascular disease and lung cancer and all types of cancer. So I would ask all of you to please be aware of this, and take action. Because this is something we can do that doesn't cost a lot of money, like testing machines and all the things we need for COVID testing and tracing. That's a lot. But if we just had a countywide mandate, Maui has already set the example for smoke free parks and smoke free beaches. Now, we can set the example for smoke free housing so all of our keiki, our kupuna, and our families can stop suffering from the secondhand smoke. And, you know, some people say, well, the walls are walled off, and they shouldn't be exposed, but actually, aerosolized smoke particles easily make their way through cracks in windows, in the walls, in the flooring. They travel through the ventilation ducts. They can travel

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through the plumbing. So in my apartment that I used to live in that I was actually forced out of because of secondhand smoke, it feels like that person is sitting right next to you, even if they're in another apartment way down the hallway or below you or above you. It...you can smell it. And the effects affect you right away, as if you're sitting right next to that person. So in this time of this pandemic, I really ask you to think about this because you can have a positive impact on saving these people who are suffering, you know, these mothers who are taking care of their keiki and all these people who are suffering. That's something we can do very easily. And I am here to help however I can --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. GUPTA: -- there are multiple physicians who are also willing to help. So thank you so much, and I'm open to any questions.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Well, I think you did a great job of sharing the information there, Ms. Gupta. So I don't think we have any...questions, Members? I thought she was very clear and precise on your request and your thoughts. We appreciate that very much in your work experiences with our community, whether it's the young or old. So I know that some of the Members have already been approached regarding this initiative or proposal, and I'm sure we'll have an appropriate hearing on the subject shortly, Ms. Gupta. But --

MS. GUPTA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- thank you for...and to us, we appreciate you sharing this area of concern.

MS. GUPTA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Any other questions for Ms. Gupta, Members? If not, thank you again for making time this afternoon. Lesley, our next person please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Tina Oman.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you.

MS. OMAN: Hi, I'm Tina...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. OMAN: Hi, I'm a school counselor in one of the intermediate schools. I work in Wailuku. So I work with a lot of people who live in multiunit housing. And so I just wrote down what I'm going to say, so here goes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

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MS. OMAN: I'm a condo owner in Kihei, where one of the owners has rented her unit to smokers. And it has been seeping into my unit night and day, which is impacting my ability to breathe. I have asthma. Sometimes it is so excessive that my smoke detector beeps. Research has proven that secondhand smoke travels in multiunit buildings, and that it can affect the respiratory system. Nevertheless, clean air is not a right when you live in a condo. It is just not a given right. What about during COVID-19? Is clean air necessary for someone quarantining and infected with COVID-19? Does a condo owner's smoker's right prevail as default during a health crisis? Do the people who live and work in Maui have clean air rights over vacation rentals? For myself, if I had COVID-19, I would need to leave my home, but where would I go that I would not infect others? My HOA is unable to help me since the default is that a smoker has a right to smoke in their condo. This is their rationale and their position on smoking. They said most owners oppose smoking in units, but the board is not in a position to try again to prohibit smoking entirely on site for fear of exposing the AOA to substantial legal fees. If we had to fight opposition to such rules in court, the board has opted instead to wait until another condominium complex in the State of Hawaii implements such a prohibition of smoking and is taken to court by a complainant owners and/or pro-smoking lobbying groups. Only when the case is fully adjudicated in the State of Hawaii, including appeals prohibiting onsite smoking, will the board feel that the Kamaole Beach Royale AOA is liability free and move to implement a ban of smoking on site. Today, we are not aware of any such case being adjudicated in the State of Hawaii. You see, in order for smoking to be prohibited, it must obtain a 67 percent vote from all owners. It's backwards. Clean air has to be voted on. Living in a pandemic that has been proven to cause respiratory issues in the lungs, but to have clean air in your home, it has to be voted on. Also, I make too much money to live in State-mandated smoke free public housing like my students. And I don't make enough to initiate a powerful lawsuit to make a change. A Maui County ordinance could take this burden off of the AOAs and give them the power to freely create smoke free living environments in all multiunit housing complexes. If it was a temporary ordinance during COVID-19 that prohibited smoking in multiunit buildings, that would be a start. In April, I joined as a volunteer with the Coalition for Tobacco-Free Hawai'i because my health had been impacted by the secondhand smoke of a neighbor in my condo, and it was severe enough to send me to my car to sleep at night, yes. That is something I do.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, Ms. Oman...

MS. OMAN: And I get up the next day and I go to work.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. Conclude for us please, Ms. Oman, since your time has gone over the four-minute mark.

MS. OMAN: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. And again, since you told us you have it written, we're happy to receive your written comments as well, Ms. Oman.

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MS. OMAN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: But yeah, conclude for us, please.

MS. OMAN: Yes. So yeah, in conclusion, you know, that is the only avenue right now, is an ordinance. I want to tell you that primarily what we're dealing with is we're dealing with vacation rental owners that live on the mainland and they want to allow smoking because they feel like they could rent their units, you know. But they don't live here. They're not living and trying to work here.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Yeah, we appreciate those very sincere comments from you, Ms. Oman, regarding to your health and the impact to your health as well. So this Committee takes your comments very seriously. I will tell you that. I think Ms. Paltin has a question for you too, for clarification.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Oman, for your testimony. I just was...you know, thank you for all that research you did. My clarifying question would be have you come across another state that has done this so that we're not reinventing the wheel, that it has been passed in another jurisdiction already?

MS. OMAN: California, uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And what County was that? Or is it the entire State?

MS. OMAN: I believe it's the entire State has gone smoke-free in multiunit condos and residential buildings.

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Anyone else has a question for Ms. Oman? Okay, thank you for your time, and we look forward to you sharing that written testimony also with us, Ms. Oman, when you have the time to share that with us. We'd be happy to receive your written comments also.

MS. OMAN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Lesley, our next testifier please.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Josie Prieto if she's still signed on. Ms. Prieto? I believe she has signed off. Our final testifier is Debbie Cabebe.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. I know I saw her earlier. Ms. Cabebe, are you...

MS. CABEBE: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Debbie.



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MS. CABEBE: Yes, hi. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Members.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. CABEBE: Sorry, my phone is going off here. Trying to multitask and not doing a good job. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I just wanted to talk a little bit about the rental assistance, and just to give you an update. I heard the conversation earlier (*audio interference*) might be helpful. So Joe Pontanilla from the CDBG office has been working on funding...for CARES Act funding that's dedicated to rental assistance. And money went to the Family Life Center and to MEO, who will be rolling that out shortly. I think we were trying to time it with the wrap up of the H.E.L.P. funding, and then implement this. It does serve the 80 percent of the median area income, so that is, you know, a restriction that could prevent some people from qualifying. But it also did receive a call from the Housing and Human Concerns Office, the Housing Specialist. And I know that...I think they were going to have some additional funding that's CARES Act that will also be for rental assistance. So I just wanted to let you know, I think there is money out there --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. CABEBE: -- and a lot of those fundings are available for people that can't maintain it. So it is to address those people that have been impacted by COVID, whereas typical rental assistance programs require that you're able to sustain a unit after a certain period. The CDBG money is for up to three months, and it covers rental and mortgage. So I thought that information might be helpful to the Committee. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Cabebe. We appreciate you sharing that information for us. So at this time, we're going (*audio interference*) to this Committee that our position has been able to request on a timely basis, and you've been able to get the funds out to those individuals or entities that are in the greatest need areas?

MS. CABEBE: Well, we are. I mean, some of the challenges with getting the money out is not necessarily the money getting to us, it's the process in which the money has to go out. And it's collecting documents and...it's all the challenges. You know, if you listen to Hawai'i Public Radio, anybody that's administering any of these emergency funds, we're all kind of experiencing the same challenges. So...and a lot of us, our systems are not set up to handle the volume that we're experiencing. So that's the biggest challenge, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, and it's helpful for us to know that, Ms. Cabebe. So, you know, that's why, you know, we appreciate you sharing this information with us so we can have a sense of what the actual people who doing the groundwork is going through at the same time, with the pressures to get money to needy individuals and families, but still be required...because we are aware the Inspector General of the U.S. Treasury is very hot now on abuse and misspending of CARES Acts money. And so they going to be doing the auditing. Trust me, they going to be doing the audit police work. And...so

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yeah, appreciate the thoroughness that you folks go through to ensure that, you know, whatever audits we are going to go through, and we are, COVID spending, you know, we will be able to do it very well and be able to answer any questions as it regards to our use of Federal CARES money. So thank you for a job well done, Debbie. And please share that with your employees as well because it takes a team to make it happen.

MS. CABEBE: Absolutely. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Ms. Sugimura, you have a question.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Debbie, for your participation. The...when is the last day that people can apply with your MEO for H.E.L.P. program?

MS. CABEBE: The last day we'll accept applications is October 31st, and we'll be processing through probably the middle of November. And that's...we're going to have to stop at that point so we have time to make sure that all of our bills clear and everything is reconciled so that we can meet the November 30th deadline for reporting to the County of Maui. Because I know they have a deadline to report to the State.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So if you have any...if you have any leftover funds, will you be still processing, or is November, middle of November your drop dead?

MS. CABEBE: We're going to have to cut it at that point just because we won't be able to reconcile everything. And if we have things that are lingering out there, once the grant is closed, we're not going to be able to charge it to anything. We're going to have to find our own funds to cover those expenses. So we want to make sure that everything has time to clear before they close the books.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you plan to spend your 10 million. I think that's how much MEO got, huh?

MS. CABEBE: We're trying our best, I have to say. It's been rough, just because...and even, you know, I have to have the County Finance Department, they've been helping, they've got staff working on weekends trying to process first-time applications. It's not just the County's H.E.L.P. program, it's all of these emergency assistance programs that have gone out. Every provider has been overwhelmed because of the volume. And some people are applying, in the same day, three and four times, so it just bogs down the system. So it's a tedious process, but as Chair Hokama said, the staff are the key. They are phenomenal. Phenomenal.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Agree. Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, and followed by Ms. Kama.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. You know, and I echo our Chair's comments earlier. I commend you and your staff, Ms. Cabebe, on all the work that you've been doing to address the needs of our community. So mahalo. So I wanted to clarify a couple things for, you know, those who are watching. One, so the...this is the H.E.L.P. program funding, this last two rounds was from CARES Act money, Federal CARES Act. And the County's deadline is November 20th, so that all the receipts would have to be submitted to the County by November 20th. And then the County's deadline to the State is December 20th. So a lot of tight timelines for everyone, that the...this new program that you're talking about, this rental and mortgage assistance...and that's through CDBG. The CDBG funds have a different deadline as the CARES. The CARES, as I said, is...must be spent by the end of December, whereas the CDBG is for the fiscal year, so June 30th?

MS. CABEBE: Thank you for the question. No, the CDBG funding actually is CARES Funding, but there were different pockets, and I honestly don't quite understand. But that funding goes through December of 31st [sic], 2021. So we have some time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

MS. CABEBE: And it's eight...right now, we've...we'll be receiving 845,000, and Family Life Center, I think, will receive the same amount. So between the two grantees is a lot of funds there, there are a lot of funds there.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 834,000?

MS. CABEBE: 845,000, I believe. Oh, 95,000, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And that expires December of 2021?

MS. CABEBE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, that's really good to know. And these funds are paid directly to the landlords?

MS. CABEBE: Correct. Or the mortgage company.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or the mortgage company, right. Okay, so I just wanted...so that, you know, those that would be applying don't expect to get the funds directly, it would go to those that they pay their rent or mortgage to. Mahalo, Ms. Cabebe. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for that. Ms. Kama --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- you had a question?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, thank you, Chair. So Debbie, I heard you say earlier that, you know, what you and your team are doing right now in terms of trying to take care of the last group of families that need help and try to process all of that, that that in itself is a lot of work. And did I understand you correctly to say that you don't have the system available to be able to...or, what I'm trying to get at is if you got more money later on, would you be able to increase your capacity if you have more money to do that in the future? If there happens to be another round that might come up?

MS. CABEBE: If there's another round of funding, that would be my recommendation that we look at some other options of how to administer it. The way the system is set up...because it's Federal funding, we're very cautious, trying to make sure we have good safeguards in place. But, you know, we were allowing people to receive maybe like four different types of payment for the...like, if they, you know, if they qualified for \$1,000, they could pay four different bills. So then that means that if I --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MS. CABEBE: -- if we process 10,100 applications times four, that's how many transactions my fiscal department has to handle. They just...we just physically don't have the capacity to do it. So there has to be some other way. If we could do...maybe fund the food bank and give them more. We have had some people concerned about what people buy when they go to the grocery store, you know, like maybe they're buying high-quality meat versus hamburger, and there's judgment about that. And so there's all this...these unknown things that you don't know about until you start, you know, running the program. And we can't be the morality police, but we also want to be good stewards of the money. So where is that line? So I think I would ask that there's some deep discussion about ways that we can do this. And we're willing to help, but it's...the system, the way it is, it's just not really going to be sustainable. And I probably will lose my staff if I tell them that we're going to have to go through the end of the year. Or they're going to hang me up by the tree.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Hopefully not. So I want to help you get out of that dilemma. So thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I just was verifying, you were encouraging families to apply for three months at a time, or was that a...did I get that wrong?

MS. CABEBE: No. I...they can qualify under the CDBG program for three months of assistance. Under the current H.E.L.P. program, they could apply, I think, up to five times under the new system, but there's 30-day intervals between when they can apply. So 30 days after they receive the first amount of assistance. So some people apply today, and then they were applying tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day, thinking that they could get five in a row, but it's 30-day intervals. So that bogged down the system. We were printing and logging applications and going, oh, this is a duplication, and then you've got to get back to people. So it's just a...you

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know, I've said before, you don't know what you don't know. Once you start doing it like all the, you know, all of the challenges come up. And because you have to implement something so quickly, you're just sort of trying to...that...you know, navigate the system as you go.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So under the current one, you can get up to five months assistance, but only every 30 months [sic].

MS. CABEBE: Right, but it's going to end October 31st, so that's moot.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. And then the CDBG starts November 1st?

MS. CABEBE: It will as soon as I get the notice to proceed. I just sent my work plan in to the CDBG office but, you know, Maude Cunningham and Lori Tsuhako was helping Joe Pontanilla, and we've all been meeting, and we decided that we were going to sort of pull back a little bit on this because there was so much housing money out there, it was confusing to people. So we thought, well, when this other money dries up, it'll be a good time to start rolling this out because then it meets the need. The other wrinkle is though...and the State of Hawaii Housing has been talking with Maude and with MEO, is we have to look at duplication of services. So if they received Federal Rental Assistance from another entity, they're not eligible. And so how do we share that data? So, you know, there's all of these challenges to make sure...and because there's no proper...there's no proper system set up, we're doing manual spreadsheets and we're sharing it with Janice from the State Housing, Maude's sharing hers, I'm sharing mine. But all that manual work, I mean, it's...you know, and I mean, everybody says oh, you should do this and you do that, but it's like, we're too far into it to create new systems. You got to do...you got to roll with what you have and then look at, you know, going forward when we do something else, how can we do it differently.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is it clear to folks that need the rental assistance...like, I mean, how are you getting the word out that this is available to folks? You know, say they're in their house and they're stressing out and they don't have the money and they're trying to stay home and...how would they know that this is an option that they could pursue?

MS. CABEBE: Are you talking about the current H.E.L.P. Program or the CDBG Program?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, the current H.E.L.P. Program expires at the end of the month, so that ship kind of sailed already, but I guess the moving forward one, the CDBG one.

MS. CABEBE: Well, I was going to say for H.E.L.P., it's been all over the place. I mean, for the amount of applications we have, I mean, the word is out there. But for CDBG, we'll be doing a press release, and then we'll have information on our website. We'll share it with the Non-Profit Directors Association, the Housing and Human Concerns know it. So, you know, there'll be ways. We'll make sure the information gets out. You know, and we run housing assistance program year-round, so people know that

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we have housing assistance, and they will come here. And I think also because of the H.E.L.P. program, people that never knew about us before have come, and now are aware that they can get help from us. So I hope that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Ms. Cabebe, for the work you're doing. Thank you, Chair, for my opportunity.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Ms. Cabebe. First of all, my first question is, since undertaking this task or processing H.E.L.P. applications, CDBG whatever, what have you, have you had a good night's sleep?

MS. CABEBE: Oh. . . . *(laughter)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Just kidding, just kidding. My question is about the processing time. I know you've been overwhelmed with applications and with limited staff. Have you guys have managed to cut into that gap, I guess, of the wait for the applicant? Have you sort of reduced that time, that processing time?

MS. CABEBE: Well, when the County funds ended and then we started with the CARES Act funding, we weren't allowed to proceed until we actually had an executed contract. And I understand that because there were so many unknowns. So there was about a two and a half week lag in July where we were receiving hundreds of applications every day, but we weren't able to process any. So it was sitting. And then when we started up, we were two and a half weeks behind. And so as of September, we were probably a good month behind. I know now we...because the County's help, and then also because...I mean, I...we have people working overtime, all the exempt people are working, so we have only maybe about two and a half weeks behind now. So we've caught up from being a full month behind. So I think it's phenomenal. I was thinking last week, they processed almost 800 applications. And that's a lot in one week.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Right. Yeah, great. That's good to hear. Thank you for your work. And I know too, you have to make sure people are not double dipping as well. That's a challenge, and that takes time to do the research. So anyway, great job. Appreciate what you're doing. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'll make it quick. It...my question is coming from your response to Member Paltin's question. So MEDB has, you know, received funding for the Adaptability Program, and so you talked about doing the manual spreadsheets. And I was wondering if, you know, taking advantage of that program to adapt to online processes is something that you considered?

MS. CABEBE: Right. But as I said, you know, when this started, we're...I mean, basically we had about two and a half weeks to start. So you have to do what you know. And

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for us to implement something new...so going forward, I mean, you know, our team...director and myself, we've had lots of conversations. But then that also costs money in the infrastructure and training and all of that. So...and that's actually part of our strategic plan to go, you know, more paperless. But it's a process, so we're...you're so technology savvy, some of us are not.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Cabebe. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. Members, thank you again, Ms. Cabebe, for making the time and sharing information, responding to the Committee's questions. And when appropriate, we'll be asking again...who has time, right? But we just got to find time, so eventually when we start the...consolidating the numbers that's part of, you know, you going to need to do that anyway, but we would ask that the Committee be informed when you do your consolidation requirements so we can also judge and to assist you to your important question of how do we improve the system to be able to take care our people in a fair and timely manner. Because you just mentioned some of the operational challenges regarding data entry and duplicating concerns. So we've heard it, and we are happy to do what we can to improve this process so that your job is easier and our people get the relief that they need in a more timely manner. So thank you for your good work, and your employees' good work.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: I know that we have one more testifier, I believe, Staff. So if you could please introduce this person?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Deanna LaFlamme.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. LAFLAMME: Hello. Thank you. I'd like to comment on the La'akea lease --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. LAFLAMME: -- and share with you that when the land was leased 15 years ago, it was built...designated to build a community for people with disabilities. And I want to point out that that's no longer allowed. Recent Department of Human Service medical waiver standards state that we can't have congregate settings anymore, we need to have integrated settings. And the U.S. Department of Housing and Human Development guidelines, only integrated settings are supported. And so what the land was given for and leased for is no longer what's occurring. So I just wanted to share that with you all. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. LaFlamme, for making the time and waiting for your opportunity to share your comments. So thank you very much. Members, any questions on what Ms. LaFlamme shared? Ms. Sugimura.

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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for sharing that. Can you tell us, are you part of a State organization or Federal organization?

MS. LAFLAMME: I am not. I am a parent of a child with special needs, and my eldest daughter is a special needs teacher. So it's just a passion for me that we provide the right opportunities for people with disabilities.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Anyone else has a question for Ms. LaFlamme? Ms. LaFlamme, thank you so much for joining us and sharing your comments, and we appreciate your passion for the...our disabled community and the assistance that you and your daughter provide. So thank you for that time today. Members, we have no further requests for oral testimony. So we're going to close testimony for today's meeting, with no objections, as well as accepting written testimony that has been presented for the Committee. Any objections, Members?

### **COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS**

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. So ordered, we will accept the written, and we'll close oral testimony for today's meeting.

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

### **ITEM HFC-74: LA'AKEA VILLAGE (PAIA) (CC 20-483)**

CHAIR HOKAMA: I know Mr. Molina has to leave shortly, so I'm going to just dive into the first part of HFC-74 La'akea Village, and then take a recess. But at this time, since Mr. Molina is still with us, I would like to ask the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, which has the responsible...responsibility as the lead agency to ensure compliance to what Council has adopted in granting a 55-year lease at \$1 a year to the La'akea Village Foundation. And so I'm going to ask Ms. Munsell, our Deputy Director, to please make some opening comments on how the Department has implemented the program, as well as the status regarding the direction of use from the Council on the property of...that's under review this afternoon. Members, I hope you do have your copy, we did present with you of the original resolution approval of 2005, where Mr. Molina and I were sitting Members at the time. We have copies for you of the exhibits A, B, C. And under our resolution, I believe that we highlighted, for the authorization of agreement...let me look at my document, that the words that was put into the executed agreement was that we are agreeing that the premise shall be used solely--this is page two of the land court system agreement dated November 30, 2005 under section A, use of premises--the County Council approved that the sole purpose of developing a farm village for developmental disabled adults. That is the primary language of the Council resolution, solely for the purpose of developing a farm village for these developmentally disabled adults. The uses other than the primary this Council has approved can be considered, but must have prior written approval of the



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Director of Housing and Human Concerns. And then when you look at exhibit B, I believe, they show seven conditions for use of the real property. I don't see anything that has been outstanding for concern except number one, we do state that we do not tolerate any discrimination in hiring of staff, use of volunteers, delivery of client services, on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, natural origin, age, race, color, religion, or handicap. So that was already put in writing into our document agreements. This afternoon we're going to ask the Department at this time for their comments regarding the responsibility and jurisdiction of Housing and Human Concerns. Welcome, Ms. Munsell.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you, Chair. I'm pleased to be here. Thank you for having me. Good afternoon, Committee Members, my name is Linda Munsell. I am the Deputy Director for the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. I really do appreciate the opportunity to be here with you today to discuss La'akea Village. So as you know, in 2005, the County executed a 55-year lease with La'akea Foundation for a 12-acre County-owned parcel in Paia. As Chair mentioned, the purpose of the lease was to allow the foundation to develop a farm village for developmentally disabled adults. Like all of you, of course, Housing and Human Concerns did receive a copy of the complaint, and obviously we are very concerned about the allegations that were made in the letter. Subsequently, we had several conversations with current board members--Susan Graham, Executive Director Sarah Menzies, as well as past board president Donna Ting. As most of the complaints detailed in the letter fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health rather than the County Department of Housing and Human Concerns, Director Tshako did reach out to the Division Chief for the Department of Health's Developmentally Disabled Division, and her staff as well. This body, obviously, if you would also like to reach out to them for more information, you are more welcome...also welcome to do so. Also, as part of the process of looking into some of the allegations, I also visited the farm to verify that the use of the property was consistent with the intent of our lease. Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the dynamic, and the farm store is currently closed for sales. But I could clearly see that there was farming activity occurring on the property, which is consistent with the intent of the lease. Having not visited prior to the pandemic, I can't tell you how much has changed during...between then and now, but I can tell you that they are doing some farming on that property. Other than the lease and the grant agreement for the farm property, the County does not provide any kind of grant funding for La'akea programs. Just so that you know, I wanted to bring you up to date with that. In a couple of the testimonies, you would have heard discussion about the residential house for La'akea, which is called Mele House. That's been referenced both orally, as well as in some written correspondence. That property is owned by La'akea Foundation, and is not part of the County-owned property, 12 acres that we own. Just wanted to bring you up to date. Couple of folks have mentioned in their testimony that the development of this property...they talked about the development of this property. They've also talked a little bit about the changes in the Department of Health regulations associated with congregate living. So I want to let you know that a draft environmental assessment for further development of the property has been submitted to the Department for review, as well as other agencies. This proposal in the EA is actually for construction of 18 workforce housing units, for

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a total of about 47 bedrooms, plus the necessary supporting infrastructure. The project would also include units that would be set aside for adults with developmentally disabled individuals. If this...if that proposal...and of course right now it's under review by agencies, as well as out for public comment. So you've heard some folks who have obviously heard about some of this development. I don't know whether they actually attended the public comments or the public meetings that they're having on these...on this project. I know that they have to do further community outreach as part of this process. But once all of those comments are back from all of the departments, as well as the public meeting process that has occurred, in order for a development of any sort to occur on this property, it would have to come back to Council for review, and it would come back either under a 201H or a 2.97 process to ensure that it's in compliance. You would get to review this. And then if Council decided that they wanted to roll forward with the development of this property, we would then have to look at the lease to ensure that they were in compliance with that, and probably the lease would need to be amended. Obviously there's...you're going to have a lot of questions, and so I'm going to...and you're going to hear from the La'akea board and some of the members of the staff, so I'll close my opening statements there, but I'll obviously remain here for questions if you have any. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Director Munsell. So two things before I open it up to the Committee Members, Director. So one, this housing proposal that the...you're mentioned to us about going and getting community input. Who is initiating that project, the Department?

MS. MUNSELL: No, sir. Thank you for the question. This is actually a proposal by the La'akea Foundation. They've hired a consultant to begin this process because it's a formal process that they would have to go through. They're in the early stages of this, and just exploring whether this would work on that property. I think that they're...the board members and their consultant are probably on the call and could answer more questions for you. As I said, we've got a draft EA, but it's under review. So in the early process.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Right now we're more concerned about compliance with the current agreement, Director, yeah? I'm not that concerned about what could potentially be the future because I'm not going to even think about that until we get the compliant status squared away. Have they met the requirements of the Council's approval regarding the use of County property? Before they're even thinking about other uses, we want to know compliance...are there any other issues before we hear why they're going to change from a solely farm village approval for developmental adults, we're changing the mission. Because that's not what we approved, and in 2005 by pretty much a unanimous approval. So that's where we are now. I'm going to ask Mr. Molina, I know he has time...fighting some time requirements. So Mr. Molina, I'm happy to give you your crack at questions at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Chair. I'm in total agreement with you to focus today's meeting simply just on the lease itself. And all of the other issues, I

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think that needs to be left out for today. And like you, I'm interested in the compliancy aspect. I mean, it's been, what, 15 years. Seems like...I get the impression from the Department that I'm...everything's okay. But again, before we look at other things...and thank you for reminding me of that, Mr. Hokama, because yeah, the mission now, from what I gather, maybe it's going to be changed and...which is something that when you and I was back on the Council, that was not, you know, the discussion as to why this lease agreement was requested. So Director Munsell, so can you confirm at this point everything is going according to plan? Everything is in compliancy at this point?

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you, sir, thank you for asking. As you mentioned, the intent of this was to develop a farm village for people with developmentally disabled individuals. So the property currently is being used for farming. It's on a very small scale, obviously, but they've got orchards and gardens and the farm stand, which the intent is that they would be selling vegetables. Obviously they can't do that currently. But then the other component of that, obviously, is whether you can actually build housing for developmentally disabled individuals on this property. And because of the rule changes, there is some question about that. And that's something that we would have to come back and we would have to talk about. But as of this point, yes, they're in compliance with the lease requirements. It just a matter of what we would visualize the future for this property to be.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, great. Thank you. Chair, I'd have more questions, but I have to go. I know you and my colleagues will do a good job with vetting this matter today. Thank you for your response, Director. And thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Molina. Just so that you can be assured, yeah, we'll be discussing more about the compliance and the current status of the current agreement, yeah. I'm not going to stray into the potential outside of the current agreement because of time requirements, as well as the issues that we have been brought forward. So I can assure you that, Mr. Molina, that it is Chair's intent to defer the item if the Committee agrees so that we can bring it up and focus on the other components at a more appropriate time. But I appreciate you making time for the Committee this afternoon, Mr. Molina. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Members, me and the Staff need a short break. I tend to forget we also have Staff requirements, as well as our own. So I'm going to ask, Members, you want a five or ten-minute break?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Five? Because I know going take us ten for come back anyway. So why don't we say five, and we'll see each other in ten, okay. We will be in recess.  
... (gavel) ...

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**RECESS: 3:20 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 3:33 p.m.**

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)* . . . How's that? The Healthy Families, Communities meeting is now called back to order. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, the Vice-Chair. Chair Riki Hokama went off to do some Lānaʻi important business for his island, so he asked me to fill in. As you know, we're going to defer this item, and...oh, by the way, we have bare quorum, so if anybody has to leave this meeting for any reason, let me know because then we're going to have to recess until you get back. But this portion of the meeting, I wanted to focus on the lease, which Linda Munsell from Housing and Human Concerns, you said you did a site visit. And can you just talk to us on what's on this 12 acres that is the County lease? Because it sounds like the Laʻakea Foundation has a bigger portion of land somewhere that this other Housing Project is going in, it sounds like. But can you just focus on what is our land and what's there and is used today.

MS. MUNSELL: Sure, thank you. The...so land is... if you're familiar with Baldwin Avenue, it's up Baldwin Avenue close to...just adjacent to Doris Todd. As you head up the mountain, it's on the left side. And what's on the property currently is...obviously there's a farm stand there that...and a parking lot. There's also a building that they use for their administration. In the back of the property there is a building that they've used or are developing a commercial kitchen in. There's also a chicken coop and some sheds that look like they're used for either equipment or could be used for other animals if they had them. There's an area that they're using to do compost that there's a lot of wood chips and things there, and you can see the activity that's occurring for the...to do some soil improvement. There are a lot of trees on the property that are fruiting trees...avocados, I saw other citrus fruit and other things. And of course, there's an orchard down below. A lot of the land is still...is vacant. It's been cleared, I think partly because of the fire that was...that occurred, and so now they're starting to maintain that. There's not a huge amount of farming occurring, but you can see that there is that work going on. There are no residential buildings on this property at the moment. The one resident that they have, as I mentioned before, is located...you can actually see it from the property over in, I believe it's Skill Village, but it's not on County-owned property. Other than that, there are...there's another building that they use for their activities, so I probably missed some...some of those kinds of...some of the things that might be occurring on there, but I think that the board is also here, so you could ask them if I've missed something.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So before I turn it over to the Committee, I wondered if the Department has a copy of, and if you can share with us...after the lease was signed in 2005, there was a requirement for 2010 for a progress report, a five-year progress report. So if you could share that with the Committee or tell us about it.

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah, I've looked through our file here, and I don't see that in the file that I have with the lease. It's possible that there's something over in Grants Management that I don't have as yet. I was reluctant to ask them to go look for that kind of thing,

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they're trying to process a grants right now with CARES funding and other things, so I didn't ask them to go and search for that. So I don't...didn't find that report. I also saw, you know, as far as the annual reports, which are also required, they're not in the same kind of form that we're typically used to seeing for grants. So one of the things that we'll be looking forward is more in the light of a newsletter kind of format where they're telling us about the activities, but on a more informal basis than where we might be used to looking at. So going forward, and once this crisis is gotten over in our Grants Management staff, we'll be working with them to work on what we would like to see as far as the formal annual reporting process looks like. And then going forward, you'll...if this Committee is interested in looking at them, we can share those with you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So the...according to the lease, it was supposed to be a farm village for developmentally disabled adults. So are you seeing that happening now? I mean, you said it sounds like there was farming, it may not have farming anymore. Cannot be COVID-related because ag doesn't necessarily die because of COVID. But if you could make a comment about that.

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah, thank you. Yeah, sorry, it is developmentally disabled oriented. So two things are happening. You know, when we're talking about a farm, and they can talk about programmatic changes that they've made since COVID-19 occurred. But of course, if you're dealing with an at-risk population, you're not going to want to have a lot of contact with the public. So to close down the farm stand, to me--and again, I'm not a program person--made sense. They are growing vegetables. They are growing fruits. They do have farm animals. But again, that would be all part of their program for the developmentally disabled population that they're serving there. And again, I'm not an expert on those things, but what I can tell you is that there is farming occurring. I did see participants on the property participating in various activities, although I think that there's fewer of them going on right now because of the COVID. But I would have to ask...defer to the board and to their executive director as to what those things are.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll get more detail, like how many adults are there and more information. Members, you have any questions? Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. And it's my understanding this whole property is ag zoned; is that correct?

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah, thank you. So *(audio interference)* I'm not a planning person. The only thing I can do is look at the...hold on, let me. Hold on, give me a second and I'll...let me look for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I just...from what I see on the RPT information, it seems that there's 13 buildings, 11 farm buildings, and two modular buildings as well as seven utility shed. Is that what you saw? 13...11 farm buildings, two modular buildings, and seven utility sheds?

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MS. MUNSELL: So I didn't count them. But I did see...like I said, I did see a farm shop where they would sell their vegetables. I saw a shed building that housed chickens and could house equipment or other animals. I saw their office building. I saw a community kitchen that they were using, the produce and the vegetables and things to do lunches and other stuff. They would have to tell you what those programs are. There was a shed in the back, which is one of those trailers. I think the kitchen was a modified trailer as well. There is another building where they do their activities, so that's five, and I know that there was another building, but I didn't know what was back there. But I think there was another...you'd have to ask them. They will have to tell you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Maybe we'll ask them. But you saw buildings? Thank you.

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To your knowledge, has there ever been an audit done?

MS. MUNSELL: Not by the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Often the non-profits are audited by their own internal audits, partly that's usually dependent upon their funding sources. So that's another question that you would ask the developer...or the property managers, or the...sorry, the program manager.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So I'm kind of referring to Exhibit B, number 5, where it says the County has a right to audit grantee to determine compliance with the terms of the grant agreement. Grantee will cooperate fully with...fully and assist the County with such audit. And I guess, you know, my concern is that all the buildings on this ag land are properly permitted, and there's not any, like, you know, unpermitted activity. Because that was also a condition under Exhibit C, compliance with laws and things like that. But it doesn't seem like the inspection that you did would be for, like, any kind of zoning and enforcement type of inspection, it was more just to check it out.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you for the question. Yeah, I'm not an expert on zoning and enforcement. We can certainly get somebody from DSA to take a look at that if you'd like. My primary concern was, was it being used the way it was intended, and my inspection indicated that it was, with the caveat that I am not the Department of Health. And so there are programmatic things I would not know whether they're in compliance with. But if they're doing...providing services for developmentally disabled and that they are farming on that land, then the answer is yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I mean, because Exhibit B and C had a lot more than just that as far as conditions and whatnot. Like, there's eight pages of Exhibit C. But...so you didn't check for compliance with Exhibit C, just...

MS. MUNSELL: I didn't go through it with a fine tooth comb, no. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

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MS. MUNSELL: We can do that and provide a report for you if you'd like.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or we could do the audit maybe.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Also here, we have Raymond Cabebe, Vice President, Chris Hart and Partners. And who are they...who else is here for resources? I'm sorry? Oh, Susan Graham and Sarah Menzies. Okay. So Members, anybody else have questions maybe for their staff? Ms. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and then Ms. Tasha Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait, oh, I'm sorry. Are you done, Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes, I'll leave --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- yield the floor. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Keani?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Deputy Director Munsell, aloha. Does the County...okay. So the County leases this land to La'akea Foundation...not foundation --

MS. MUNSELL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- La'akea Village?

MS. MUNSELL: So the lease is between the County of Maui and the La'akea Foundation.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Does the County grant funds to La'akea Foundation? Are there any, like, grant funds that go to La'akea Foundation?

MS. MUNSELL: So I checked with our Grants Management, and other than the lease for the land and the value of that land, which is considered a grant, we've not provided any other funding.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Deputy Director Munsell. Mahalo, Chair. Those are my questions for now.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Kama, you have questions?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, yes. So just want to be clear. So in 2005, we had an agreement with the La'akea Foundation, but today we're hearing about La'akea Village. So is...am I to understand that they're the both the same organization, or maybe did the organization go through some kind of metamorphosis that moves them from a foundation to a village? So I don't know who to ask, Chair. Should it go to Linda --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Susan.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- or should it go to...

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Susan Graham is --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- expressing her interest --

MS. GRAHAM: Can you all hear me?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to answer. Yeah.

MS. GRAHAM: Yeah, thank you. Yes is the answer to your question. We were originally La'akea Foundation. We found that to be confusing. Foundations generally are giving grants to other organizations, and we are not that kind of foundation, so we went through a name change to La'akea Village. And we have...Sarah might be able to answer more of the organizations, but we have filed the name change with IRS, with all of our other agencies, and we are now legally La'akea Village. When we reviewed the lease through this process, one of the things that we noticed was that there is a cover page that list the name of the organization, the board president, and the executive director. All of those need to be updated because they have all changed. So that is one part of the lease that we need to update. The compliance...we are in compliance. We went through all the conditions, and I believe we are in compliance with all of those. And we have a letter that we would love to send the Committee stating that, and explaining how we're in compliance. There was one other question about...oh, I'm sorry, I'm not thinking of it now. But there have been several questions about the mission and the purpose of this land. There has been no mission change. Our intent all along has been to provide services and housing for adults with disabilities. We're aware of the changes in the HUD requirements and the Medicaid and DOH requirements about congregate settings. We know they can't be segregated, and so part of our plan is, of course, to have a community that is mixed and not segregated. We are going through the process of an EA. We are working with...I inherited the master plan. 2005, I was not involved for the five-year update, I was still not on the board yet. I didn't come on the board until 2014. I was not aware of these reporting requirements, and I'm happy to work with Linda in making sure we're doing it the correct way, now that we're aware of it. But our plan is to go through the EA process...oh, I know what it was. It was about the buildings, it was your questions,



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Committee Member Paltin, about the buildings that were on the property and the permitting process. Help me remember the...but nothing...we...our hope is to get through the EA, and at that point we will, of course, assess what the HUD and the DOH requirements are for the adults with disabilities. I mean, we're not going to build something that is not in compliance with the current rules. The rules change. I mean, this original master plan was designed in, you know, 2010. And yes, it's a different world in the DD world than it was back then. So we'll stay current with that, and build what is appropriate. I want to jump back...yeah, Linda, I'm sorry. Go ahead. I just wanted to answer your question. I'm not sure, because I'm not looking at the same document that you are, Committee Member Paltin, about all those buildings. The build...Linda was correct, the buildings that we have is a community center; a country store; one-half of our planned commercial kitchen, which recently got its food permit...its food service permit; an administration building; a tool shed; an animal shed; and one storage shed. So community center, kitchen, country store, admin, two farm sheds, and a storage...that's seven buildings total. They all have their BX except maybe the storage shed, I'm not sure if it does or not. But all the other buildings have BX permitting.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So earlier during testimony, you mentioned that La'akea Village is a Medicaid waived dom home; is that correct?

MS. GRAHAM: The group home is a dom home, yes, that's correct.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So how many people reside in the dom home?

MS. GRAHAM: I'm going to let our executive director, Sarah...I can answer a lot of questions, she's much better at answering the program questions. So...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MS. MENZIES: Aloha. Aloha, Chair and Committee Members. I just want to be sure it's not out of turn. I was kind of waiting to come on, but are we all as agendized resources on now?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so you can speak.

MS. MENZIES: Okay. Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please.

MS. MENZIES: So yeah, we do. We have a day program that we are a service provider agency through Medicaid waiver. And that's licensed through Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division. And then our residential home is a dom home and that's licensed through Office of Healthcare Assurance. And it is offsite, it's in Skill Village, the neighborhood.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So your dom home is not connected to your farm; is that correct?

MS. MENZIES: No, not connected. It's not on the County land. Yeah, we own it, it's separate, and that was really to address the need of a home and of a residence. But being that we're on County land, we need to go through the process of the EA to begin that development for housing.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So the structures that are on County land, do they all carry liability insurance?

MS. MENZIES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MS. MENZIES: Yeah, and they are permitted as BXs, so it's ag processing buildings as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: How many ag processing buildings are there?

MS. MENZIES: All the buildings that we have are filed under BXs. And I believe that's what they're considered.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: You know how many buildings there are? I mean, Ms. Munsell tried counting but she wasn't sure.

MS. MENZIES: Seven, I'm right here. One, two, three, four, five, six...six buildings.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, six buildings.

MS. MENZIES: There were seven, and one belonged to someone else, so it was removed. So if you do have a map that had another BX that was showing there, that's no longer on here.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So how...are you folks connected to County sewer system, or you folks on septic or cesspool?

MS. MENZIES: Yeah, we have an aerobic septic system.

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

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Munsell, you have a...you want to add to that conversation?

MS. MUNSELL: Yes, actually. Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to go back to Ms. Paltin's question about the Exhibit C questions. When this did first come...when this first

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came up, I did go through the lease. And Exhibit C is, for the most part, things like payment of rents and tax assessment. There's condemnation, findings of improvements, repair and maintenance, breach of contract kind of things, and there's 29 conditions on there. A few of those are specific to insurance requirements, and so one of the things that we did go back to do was ensure that the insurance requirements listed in Exhibit C and other things were being complied with. The other conditions are the general conditions. There's seven of them that she referenced. For the most part, other than the general conditions, we would be looking at these requirements that the lessee would be responsible for. So we are...yeah, I just wanted to clarify that I hadn't recognized what she meant by Exhibit C, and we had gone through those and looked at them. Thank you for asking.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, sounds like...you know, if we could ask for a map. Tamara Paltin was looking at our real property tax map, I believe, and it shows 11 properties. Is that what you're looking at, Tamara? Yeah. And then what you physically have there now is different, it sounds like, just by counting. So probably we could do our own research too and find out, you know, what has transpired, or if you could provide that for us because we're coming up with different numbers. Also, Susan, you recommended, or you said you have a compliance letter you could submit that. So if you could submit that to the Committee; is that correct?

MS. GRAHAM: Yeah, Sarah and I went through...I'm sorry, excuse me. I was just going to say Sarah and I went through...I know there were several documents, but there was one that...qualifying standards for applicants and grant conditions, and there were six points under each one, and that's the one that we responded to. So I will send that on to the Committee.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. GRAHAM: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: And also, as it came up for discussion, just the requirements that have changed for housing or HUD housing are different in terms of congregate settings. And I guess you need to explain what was part of the lease in 2005 and where you've made these changes now. And I think we have also Raymond Cabebe on the phone if he's here...I mean, on a...as a resource, if he's a planner. And if he can contribute to that conversation, if you think it's relative...you know, relevant as it relates to planning. And again, I just want to say that we are looking at the acreage that is part of our lease. And then if you could provide us additional information, if you have more land, which sounds like you have in Skill Village...is that what you said? That you have an additional house at Skill Village that's not part of this? Or is it part of this?

MS. MENZIES: No, it's not.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's not, right? So can you guys put a story together for us as to where you are today? Because we have a picture based upon what the lease requires,

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and it sounds like your vision is spilling out into the Skill Village, which is another piece of property over and beyond the...you know, the acreage that is covered by this lease. So we're trying to understand where you are, where you came from, and then like Riki said, you know, we'll hear where you're going to go to at the appropriate time.

MS. GRAHAM: I'm not sure...

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members...

MS. GRAHAM: Oh...I'm not sure if Raymond would like to chime in. I can see his square, but --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I see him, but --

MS. GRAHAM: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- he hasn't responded.

MS. GRAHAM: You know, the house in Skill Village was the organization's response to the immediate need. We knew that the EA and the ultimate building of this village was going to take, you know, a decade, which it has. It's a very long process. And so the house was purchased so we could, one, meet some immediate needs; and two, learn in the process of how our non-profit can manage dom housing. And it's been a good experience for us because we've learned a lot rather than jumping into a village. We've been able to learn a lot with the single house. But yes, we would be happy to, you know, get a map together for you, describe the components, and do that.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then I know you have Brian Kakiyara as doing your admin. And I know he's like super good at that. And I did talk to him, I had a conversation with him, he's a banker.

MS. GRAHAM: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I would imagine that your accounting has been...I don't want to use the word cleaned up, but he's probably modernized it just because of the kind of guy that he is, that I know. But did you ever do an audit? One of the Members asked...I think Tamara asked about that.

MS. GRAHAM: Yes --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you ever have an audit?

MS. GRAHAM: -- three years of financial audits from Carbonaro CPAs. We're just finishing the one for 2019 right now, but we've had three years of financial audits. And yes, having Brian come...Brian was originally a board member. And when he retired from First Hawaiian Bank, he came on as our business manager. And I often joke, that that's like having Steven Jobs be your IT guy. I mean, you know, for an organization

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as small as La'akea is, what a godsend he has been for us in getting all of our systems up and running. And even the auditors this year commented on how lovely it was to work with his systems in place. So yeah. And if you would like to see our audited financials, please let us know.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So probably I think what Tamara was asking for is probably, you know, some recent information. Is that what you want, Tamara? Yeah. So if you could share that with us, or for the Department also. And the annual reports, now that you're here and you said you didn't realize it was required. And it sounds like what Ms. Munsell found was a newsletter type as your annual report. So if you have that kind of bookkeeping, I mean, well, your Brian Kakiara method of accounting, you must have modernized your annual reporting to your board and everybody else. So if you could talk to Ms. Munsell and send something that's current --

MS. GRAHAM: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that would be appreciated so that we could see that you are complying --

MS. GRAHAM: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- with the conditions of the lease. Because as we said, that's what we're focusing on today, to make sure that it is for a farm village for developmentally disabled adults, and to get the dollar a year, right? And there was a...you know, a belief that that's what you would do. And in trade, the County would provide this land at a dollar per year for compliance. Ms. Tasha Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So I was just wondering if someone can help me to understand what the daily routine would be like at the dom home in terms of how many clients you serve, what the sleeping arrangements are, male to female ratio, those kinds of things.

MS. MENZIES: Sure. Yeah, so in our dom home, it's an eight bedroom. Typically there are five participants, right now there's four. We were transitioning somebody in, and they've...they have chosen they don't want to live independently in a dom home now. That being said, usually again, there's two to three coworkers who live in the home, right now there's two. And when we...we have an interest pool, so when a room opens up, we really try to keep it balanced between male and female. So yeah, that's about accurate still. And let's see, in terms of what the day looks like, all participants, you know, what we're here for is very individualized. So every participant has a case manager. And with their families, the case manager, they work out a budget for hours of support every week. And we help provide those services. So for again, everybody it's different. In the dom home, people will wake up, they cook breakfast together, all the programs are really about building those life skills for greater independence, so really working together, more like a family, if you will. And then once they have breakfast, sometimes mentors will come, our staff, our direct support workers, pick them up. Some have college classes, so they might go off campus, and right now

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everything is online. Many of them have volunteerism at different places, and then also have employment, some of them. And some will come over here to the farm and be a part of the community doing different activities. On a typical day, not COVID-era, we would have yoga classes, compassionate communication circles, workshops, we'd have school children coming to help volunteer in the gardens, and there's integration that way.

MS. GRAHAM: And they would work in the store...shifts in the store, in the country store.

MS. MENZIES: Yeah, so...go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, I'm trying to do that math here. So does four participants pay the bills?

MS. MENZIES: Oh, so...okay, that's the dom home. And then our day program...so people who don't live in the residence, we have an additional...let's see, let me do the math quickly...so 14 participants that receive services out in the community or, again, non-COVID, in a group here on site. And so yeah, 17 participants; four, usually five, live in the dom home.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So between the four dom home participants and the 17 participants that you provide day service to, that pays the bills.

MS. MENZIES: It covers about 80 percent of the bills, and the rest we fundraise.

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

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I see Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay, so was it 14 or 17 day service participants?

MS. MENZIES: So 17 in total, and that includes the four that live in the home.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So it's 17 total, so 17?

MS. MENZIES: Seventeen. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah. Okay. And then...mahalo, Ms. Menzies. Deputy Director Munsell or whoever would like to respond. So back in 2005-ish time, I'm sure the Council received some kind of proposal of what the foundation had envisioned for the 12 acres. Do we have that on file, and can we get a copy of that? I would like to see what was proposed for farming activity and, you know, be able to compare what is happening now. I think it's kind of arbitrary to say that there's some chickens and there's some orchard trees, but not see, you know,

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what the vision was back in 2005 and see if, you know, how far along we've come if, you know, we're...if the benchmarks are being hit or it's not, and how many residents and day service participants were envisioned in 2005, and what we have now. And I think that's one way to determine compliance with the contract. So yeah, if we can get that, that would be good.

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah, if Staff would send a request, I've got that actually right here and I can send that off to you. You can have that.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So can we send a letter? And then we probably would like a copy...or our Department, do you have the audit? Their financial?

MS. MENZIES: Our fiscal audit is Carbonaro CPAs and Management.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

MS. MENZIES: So yeah, we can send that to you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You got that? Yeah. And then also, we'll ask from you the compliance letter besides, you know, what we've already said. And I like what Keani Rawlins asked for in terms of what the 2005 original ask plans were, and so we can take a snapshot in time there, compare it with the lease, and then look at where we are today. And then again, we would like to have a map because just listening to all of you talk, you have a lot of things going on in terms of Skill Village house, and then you have these...Tamara finds 11 properties on real property tax, but then you're saying there's actually seven.

MS. GRAHAM: Six.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or six, there's six. So just curious, you know, why there's that discrepancy. I'm sure that'll be revealed as we look at this. And then again, we are focusing on our lease, you know, for our County land. So if you could educate us on stuff that's not on the County land in your map, and be very clear about it. And I'm sure the Department would have to reconfirm that with you for this lease. Members, do you hear any other things you want? Keani. Ms. Paltin. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, I got your two names mixed. Keani Rawlins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because we look so much alike.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's the ocean.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Let's see, who is our Corporation Counsel? Is it Mr. Hopper? So I have a question for Corporation Counsel, but perhaps at a later time. Maybe after this meeting, or I don't know if we would want to. So maybe after this meeting, and then I can communicate to Staff if any further action would be necessary. Can I contact you after this meeting, Mr. Hopper?

MR. HOPPER: Yes, you can.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Mahalo, Chair.

MR. HOPPER: Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, do you want to say what you're going to be asking, or you want to wait until the next meeting --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll wait until next meeting.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for Corp. Counsel. You're going to wait for next meeting, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll leave you all in suspense.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, really. Sounds like we're going to...it's like a mystery going to be solved. Sarah. Sarah, you have something to add.

MS. MENZIES: Yeah. You know, I think that coming for a visit would be a really wonderful opportunity. And in lieu of that, if we do have time, I would love to share with you a video that was filmed this February of 2020, and it gives you a picture of what day...a day here on campus and in the residence would look like. And you would get a chance to see some of the faces of our community. So I feel like that may answer some questions about what we're doing here and who's doing it.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MENZIES: Are you ready for that?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait, how long is it? We have 15 minutes.

MS. MENZIES: Less than two minutes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Less than two minutes? Okay. Is that all right, Members? Less than two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objections.

MS. MENZIES: Okay, thank you.



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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: No objections, okay. Great. Thanks. Yeah.

MS. MENZIES: All right, cross your fingers. Technology. Here we go. Enjoy.

*(Video played, no audio)*

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's the video.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, thank you, Sarah.

MS. MENZIES: You're welcome.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, that looks like you're doing...is that at the Upcountry farmers market, you're doing sales? It looks like it.

MS. MENZIES: They...our residents...actually, I have to unscreen share. I don't know how to do that step. Lesley --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Keani knows.

MS. MENZIES: -- are you on the line? Could you help?

MS. MILNER: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: On the top.

MS. MILNER: Yeah, Keani can tell you too.

MS. MENZIES: Okay. Or anyone. Yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: On the top, if you scroll your...oh, did you figure it out. If you put your cursor...okay.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got it.

MS. MENZIES: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thanks for sharing that. So I guess in pre-COVID times, that's what it'd look like. And in COVID times, I think it'll be a little bit difficult to do a site visit. But if the Members would like that, I will let Mr. Hokama know, and that might be something, you know, that you've offered, and I'll let him know if the Members want to. Although we're pretty into the COVID times and the pandemic, so we're trying to be very mindful of that. So Members, at this time, anybody else have any questions or requirements or needs that you may want from the organization before I close this meeting? I'm going to defer this, and we have a list of the items that came up from discussion. And if you would provide that to us, and Mr. Hokama will

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schedule the next meeting. But I think we have a pretty good idea of what information we're looking for. Thank you very much for the work that you do because we can never do enough for the community, and especially those in need. I mean, there's huge needs out there, and I'm sure the pandemic brings it even further. So at this time, Members, I'm going to defer this item, and this meeting is now adjourned.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.** (Excused: RH, KK, MM)

**ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.**

**ITEM HFC-58: EFFECTS OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND RELATED ISSUES UNDER THE HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE'S AUTHORITY** (CC 20-188)

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I got to. Okay, not yet. I have to also defer the second item on the agenda, which is about the Coronavirus, HFC-58. And I'm deferring HFC-74, La'akea Village, Paia. So I'm deferring both. Thank you, everybody for this great discussion. Thank you very much. Thank you.

MS. GRAHAM: Thank you.

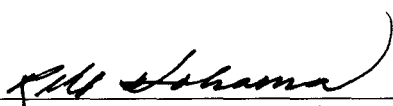
**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.** (Excused: RH, KK, MM)

**ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.**

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So at this time, the meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

**ADJOURN:** 4:17 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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RIKI HOKAMA, Chair  
Healthy Families and Communities  
Committee

hfc:min:201022:cs

Transcribed by: Crystal Sakai

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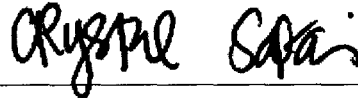
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CERTIFICATION

I, Crystal Sakai, hereby certify that pages 1 through 50 of 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 23rd day of November 2020, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crystal Sakai", is written over a horizontal line.

Crystal Sakai