WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

October 19, 2020

Council Chamber, 8th Floor, and Online via BlueJeans Link

CONVENE: 1:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama (in 1:49 p.m.)
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King (out 3:55 p.m.)
Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Councilmember Tamara Paltin
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci

EXCUSED: Councilmember Riki Hokama

STAFF: Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst
Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Wilton A. Leauanae, Legislative Analyst (trainee)
Rayna Yap, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, OCS Assistant Clerk

Sarah Freistat Pajimola, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Davideane K. Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama

ADMIN.: Alexander de Roode, Energy Commissioner, Office of Economic Development
Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Scott Glenn, Chief Energy Officer, Hawai`i State Energy Office
Scott Seu, President and CEO, Hawaiian Electric
Sharon Suzuki, President, Maui County and Hawai`i Island Utilities, Hawaiian Electric
Nicolette van der Lee, Program Coordinator, UHMC-Sustainable Living
Fred Redell, Executive Director, Hawai`i Clean Energy Alliance

Teena Rasmussen, Managing Member, Skog Rasmussen LLC
Jeanne Skog, Partner, Skog Rasmussen LLC
Tricia Rohlfing, Vice President of Finance, Hawai`i Pacific Solar
Eddie Park
Dick Mayer
Faith Chase
Jennifer Potter
Ali Andrews

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: *. . . (gavel) . . .* Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the Water Infrastructure and Transportation Committee. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, and I am the Chair of this Committee. Today we have the Vice-Chair of this Committee and the Chair of the Council, Alice Lee.

VICE-CHAIR LEE: Madam Chair, okay. So we talked about good morning in Filipino this morning, but if you're driving your truck by your friends, you would say maayong hapon, like hop on, maayong hapon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Maayong hapon. So guests that are listening, just know that every day, for every meeting, our Chair gives us an education of how to say good morning or afternoon in different languages. Thank you, Chair Lee. Mr. Hokama is excused. Tasha Kama is trying to sign on. Is Kelly King here at the meeting? I don't see Kelly. Mike Molina. Thank you, Mike.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good afternoon, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good afternoon. Tamara Paltin from West Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha ʻauinala and maayong hapon kakou from the Old Lahaina Center.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha, Tamara. Is Keani on this meeting? I don't see Keani. Oh, Laks, Tasha emailed saying that she's having a hard time logging on. Can you or Lesley help her? So Keani Rawlins is not here. Shane Sinenci from Hāna. Thank you for being here.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha ʻauinala, Chair, and maayong hapon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Maayong hapon. Thank you, everybody, for being here. Today we have with us from the County, Alex de [Rode] which is -- de Roode -- which is our Energy Commissioner, and also from the County Department of Corporation Counsel, and our Committee Staff, we have Laks Abraham, Lesley Milner, Rayna Yap is Committee Secretary, and Richard Mitchell is our Legislative Attorney. Also visiting and

participating with us in this meeting is Scott Glenn, who's the Energy…Chief Energy Officer for the Hawai`i State Energy Office. Mr. Glenn, thank you for being here. Also, we have Scott Seu who's the President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric. Thank you. Thank you very much, Scott, for being here. I'm glad you got your video going and that we have you on the phone so we can actually hear you. Nicolette van der Lee is the Program Coordinator for UH Maui College, Sustainable Living. They call it SLIM. I saw here earlier. Oh, there…there's Nicolette. Thank you. Fred Redell, who is familiar to us because he was our Energy Commissioner and that he now has a new position as Executive Director, Hawai`i Clean Energy Alliance. I just want…I think I saw Kelly King join the meeting. Kelly, are you here?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes, I am. Aloha, Chair. I guess you can't see me, but…

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I can't see you. Oh, there you are. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Welcome to all of our guests. It's like old home week for me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I was…I was going to say, this is probably going to be a very familiar subject for you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, it's great to see everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think I saw Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha ʻauinala, Chair, mai Molokaʻi Nui A Hina.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Thank you. So looks like we have everybody…Tasha Kama's trying to get on, and just Riki Hokama is not going to be here, so there's eight of us. Do we have any testifiers, Laks or Lesley?

MS. ABRAHAM: Member Sugimura, we do have testifiers. Our first -- are you ready for testimony?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we can do testimony. So how many testifiers do we have? Just curious.

MS. ABRAHAM: We have two at the moment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Two. Okay. So I will go through…so we have public testimony, which we do by phone, video conference. And testifiers can sign online and be…participate with us through BlueJeans meeting link. We also, for those listening in, you can see this meeting on *Akakū*, as well as we're on Facebook Live. Testimony is limited to three minutes, and we have one item on our agenda. I look forward to hearing from any of the testifiers. So Laks, you want to introduce the first testifier?

MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you. Our first testifier today is Eddie Park. Mr. Park, can you please unmute yourself and begin your testimony. You will have three minutes. Mr. Park?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: He's muted on his end, the video and the microphone.

MS. ABRAHAM: Mr. Park, are you able to unmute to provide testimony? We can move on to the next testifier and come back to Mr. Park. Our next testifier is Jennifer Potter. If you could unmute yourself and begin your testimony, you have three minutes. Jennifer Potter, if you are able to testify, could you unmute yourself? Our next testifier is Dick Mayer. Dick Mayer, if you're testifying, please unmute yourself. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . we can move on to the next one. Our next testifier…we'll come back to you if any of you are having trouble unmuting, but our next testifier is Faith Chase. Faith, please unmute yourself and begin your testimony.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair, Committee. Actually, I just got on the call. I wasn't planning on testifying today, just listening. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Glad you're listening in, Faith. Thank you.

MS. ABRAHAM: Member Sugimura, that's everyone that we have on the list right now.

MR. MAYER: This is Dick Mayer. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, now we can hear you. Yes.

MR. MAYER: Yeah, it was complicated as how to…how to unmute yourself. The other people you asked earlier may not know how to unmute that…this…the screen set up is kind of complicated right now. I have no testimony. I just signed up to listen in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Thank you.

MS. ABRAHAM: So we'll go back to Mr. Eddie Park. If you're able to unmute yourself? The top of your screen, you just unclick the mute button.

MR. PARK: Hey, folks. Aloha. Same situation. I clicked in through the BlueJeans link, not intending to testify today. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Thank you, Mr. Park.

MS. ABRAHAM: So the last person that we have on is Jennifer Potter. You can unmute yourself, and let us know if you're calling in to testify.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, Jenny Potter is on the PUC, so maybe she…is she on your panel?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Maybe she's listening in, or she plan to testify?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Don't know. I just thought maybe she was one of your speakers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MR. MAYER: You have to tell people where that…how to unmute themselves by going up at the very top and scroll up under the…where it says WIT Committee Meeting at the very top, and then it's a pop down thing comes…it's not obvious on the screen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Mayer.

MS. ABRAHAM: At this time if anyone else is wishing to testify please unmute yourself and announce yourself, please? Member Sugimura, I don't think we have any other testifiers at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I appreciate all the people who have made the time to listen in because I think this is a important meeting that will be educational for Maui County. So Members, at this time, if there is no objections, I want to close public testimony and accept any written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Members.

ITEM WIT-104: HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC, CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT IN HAWAII
(CC 20-384)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So today we have one item on our agenda, which is WIT-104: Hawaiian Electric, Clean Energy Investment In Hawai`i. And I want to thank everybody who's made the time to be here--the presenters, as well as the people who have taken time to listen in. Today's subject is Maui's renewable energy future, and I just wanted to kind of reflect back. Back in July, we received a press release from Hawaiian Electric dated July 1, 2020, and talking about 29 planned renewable projects represent $3.5 to $4 billion clean energy investment in Hawai`i, which…to me, the part that really attracted my attention was in the middle of COVID, to have a company as progressive and important as a utility taking the position to move our economy forward with jobs, as well as to do something that's very important. Because by 2045 is our goal to, you know, be off fossil fuels. So you all can talk further into that, but I wanted to give my personal appreciation to Hawaiian Electric for doing this for our community because you're really doing it on all the islands, not only for Maui County. But I thought it would be interesting for us as a community to hear about what you're doing, what the big vision is, and what your plans are, and how it fits into some of the speakers that we have today. So my personal appreciation, I wanted to thank Hawaiian Electric because this is huge for us. And I know that Sharon Suzuki is on the phone, on a…on the line, not video, but she has been working with us. And I would see Kuhea *(phonetic)* from Maui Electric at the airport in -- in pre-COVID days, and she was working really hard trying to bring Moloka`i, I'm sorry, to be more energy efficient. So

you've done a lot of things along the way, and I look forward to hearing what this is all about for the community. And before COVID, I was meeting--and I'm sure some of the other Councilmembers were meeting--with some of the projects that are before you today or before...or that got the support from Hawaiian Electric, and that made me think about it would be good for our community to learn about what the vision is for Maui's renewable energy future. And to reflect back, some of you may remember in 2008, the oil prices soared to a $150 per barrel. And we are on such a heavy reliance on oil to meet our energy needs. And the State's energy security, economic stability, and environmental sustainability was in jeopardy as we were exporting dollars, $7 billion, outside Hawai`i to purchase fuel oil. Out of this crisis, Hawai`i established a Hawai`i Clean Energy Initiative, which in May 2015, led by the State Legislature, adopted a renewable portfolio standard of 100 percent by 2045. So that was a big, huge goal within 30 years, and we've already passed five of that, so we have 25 years less...left. And I marvel at all the work that was done because it takes a lot, as you may know...some of you may even know more than others...about how difficult it is to move a community forward like this and to reach those kind of goals. Closer to home, one of our goals that we are working towards is to close the antiquated Kahului Power Plant that was built nearly 75 years ago. I can see it, you know, yeah. In fact, the plant was so antiquated that it was deactivated in 2014, but reopened again when HC&S closed down to make up for the power generation loss and the closure of HC&S. Fast forward, today, we have an entirely new group of proposed renewable project...energy projects that are the result of Hawaiian Electric's quest to procure additional renewable capacity, along with storage capability. The projects that are before us, before Maui, are the Kahana Solar Project, Kuihelani Solar and Storage Project, Paeahu Solar Project, Pulehu Solar. This is an extraordinary time for our country, which is why we brought this to the Committee today. We all have a role to play...individuals, businesses, organizations, and government...in working toward the best energy future for our community. So we have today a great lineup of speakers. And Members, what I'm going to do is ask the speakers to speak and present first, and then at...after we're done with that, then we'll ask the Members if they have questions. So the first speaker will be Scott Glenn, who is our Hawai`i State Energy Officer, and then we'll have Scott Seu, followed by Nicolette van der Lee, and Alex de Roode from the County, and Fred...Fred Redell will close. So those are the lineups of speakers. So at this time, Mr. Glenn, would you like to proceed?

MR. GLENN: Aloha, Everyone. Thank you, Chair, for the invitation to appear before the Committee. I'm going to try to share my screen with some slides, so could you please confirm if you're able to see this cover slide?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

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

MR. GLENN: Chair, are you able to see this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can see it.

MR. GLENN: Thank you. Thank you again for appearing…the invitation to appear before you all today on the topic of Maui's energy future. It's been a while since I've had the chance to meet with Maui County Council. Under my last role as the Office of Environmental Quality Control, we worked on environmental policy together. Moving over to energy, the direct connection for me is climate change and how those tie together, and we'd also…also, as well, the energy side. Chair, you mentioned several points that I was going to mention, so thank you for covering a couple of my slides for me. I really appreciate that. So I'd just like to spend a few minutes on Hawai`i's goals and progress, and then discuss a few of the programs we have in place and on the horizon to help more of our residents participate in the benefits of a clean energy economy. And I'm sure that Scott, Fred, and others will touch in more detail on some of these. So what this slide is showing you are three of our statutory requirements for the State, and our own State Energy Office statute. But you know, this mentions the drivers, but I think there's two fundamental drivers that, Chair Yukimura [*sic*], you mentioned, which is that first, energy security. We want to keep dollars at home. We export billions of dollars a year to bring in oil from mainly Indonesia and Malaysia, and as far away as Libya. And that's a certain level of risk for the State, and also, leakage of our dollars. And with COVID, what we saw was the collapse in tourism led to a collapse in the demand for jet fuel, which in turn has affected the prices of all of our other fossil fuel products here in the State. And this is something we didn't anticipate to this degree. And most recently, my…you know, with Maui County having the Young Brothers rate increase, the PUC also approved another one that did not get a lot of media coverage, but on O`ahu, HECO recently requested the PUC to approve a $100 million increase for the purchase of low sulfur fuel oil from the refinery to make up for some of the economic effects that are happening, and to keep the refinery open right now. And so that's what we're looking at as we don't have tourism. And we're watching the return of tourism to see when we can start hitting these inflection points on our fossil fuel. But I think that also underscores the need to transition to renewable energy to make Hawai`i more resilient and keep more of our dollars at home. On the climate change side, we just finished the month of September. September 2020 was the warmest September since recordkeeping started in 1880, and it's looking virtually certain that the year 2020 will be one of the five hottest years on record. And from 2014 to 2020, the seven years, this year plus the past six, constitute the seven warmest years on record since 1880. So when we look at it as the warmest year on record, I'm sure everyone who's paying attention today has had their air conditioning going. We often hear comments that people have their air conditioner on longer, or they don't usually have it on in September, or they had to start using it, or they're leaving it on for longer in the day, or more days, and that's going to continue. And so one way to look at it is not just this is the warmest year on record, but this is most likely the coolest year we will have going forward for much of the rest of our lives. And we might have the occasional year that's cooler in the future, but most likely, everything's just going to keep getting hotter. And what that means is more air conditioning, and more electricity use in our buildings and facilities. And therefore, we're going to need to make sure that we're keeping the grid reliable and have the resources it needs to meet that growing demand, and to keep the price at a reasonable

point so that people can afford it, so that it's affordable and reliable. Those couple drivers are captured today in a couple statutes that we have, and I have them on this slide. The RPS, the Renewable Portfolio Standard which, as you mentioned, is 100 percent renewable power by 2045. We also have the EEPE...EEPS, the Energy Efficiency Performance Standard, which is to avoid the...decrease the use of 4,300 gigawatt hours. And then we also have our net negative emissions by 2045. And what that means is even if we still have greenhouse gas emissions in the State, which could be okay...ideally we want to eliminate them...but what we need to do is make sure that we sequester...we pull more of it out of the atmosphere than we put into it. So if we're putting in one million metric tons, we're pulling down one million plus metric tons. So that's what those three statutes together help do to achieve what our office is now responsible for helping to facilitate, which is a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy. And just to touch on a couple of the different points of progress, what you see here is...is some hexagons that kind of move in a circle from the EEPS to the RPS to transportation to emissions to projects to economic growth. And the logic is, we always want to start with avoiding emissions, avoiding energy if we can help it. And then the energy we do use, we want it to be renewable. And then not just for electricity, but also for transportation. And all of these are trying to reduce our emissions. And so we're making progress on all of these fronts. And at the end of the day, what really achieves these goals are projects. It's getting things done, built, working, people to work, and switching the power switch on and having that renewable power go. And what we're seeing is economic growth comes from this. During the recession in 2010, what...or 2008 to 2010...what we saw on the recovery side was that PV and solar was one of the leading edge recovery industries. And so we've seen it before for Hawai`i, that renewable energy can help not only grow our economy, but also pull us out of recessions and pretty tough circumstances. Now along with that, you know, one of the questions we often get is, how can we ensure that everyone can participate in the clean energy revolution that Hawai`i's going through? And especially when you have folks who are renters or live in multi-family unit dwellings on those apartments, that it becomes harder to just put solar on your roof, and that's where programs like community based renewable energy come into play. And so this is something that HECO has created...or, well, the PUC and HECO have. And I'll get into it a little bit more in a moment, but what it does is it basically allows people to create renewable energy projects. And people who live in residence or businesses who can't do, say, rooftop solar can participate in this off-site renewable energy project. And it's usually solar, but it doesn't have to be. And then also, we have GEMS, which is an acronym for the Green Energy Money Savers On-Bill Program. And what that is it's a program that helps finance the installation of energy efficiency renewable energy. So no upfront cost for renters, you don't have to rely on income verification or credit scores, and it transfers from renter to renter. So it's a program that really helps get into that segment of our community that again, doesn't have direct access to, say, rooftop solar. And the way that they're able to help themselves is by using this program. And then Hawai`i Energy also has a program, and Hawai`i Energy is...so everyone on their electricity bill pays a fee to the...what they call the public benefits fee administrator...into a...and that program is Hawai`i Energy. And what they do is they offer a lot of different services from energy literacy workshops to, you know, to plugs and energy efficient devices that people can install

in their homes. So a little bit more about community-based renewable energy. So this is available from the PUC and HECO for Hawai`i, Maui, and Honolulu. Most times people do call it community solar, but it can be other things. And it's now entering its second phase, so customers who cannot put solar panels on their roofs can get an ownership stake in an off-site project and have that credited to their electricity bill. And this comes from legislation that was passed as Act 100 in 2015, with the idea...and it's this principle that residents, all residents, could be able to participate in and enjoy the economic, environmental, and societal benefits of renewable energy. And so...so say you live in a home and you're not able to put PV on your roof, or say there's a tree blocking it with shade, or you're in a multi-family unit, what you can do with CBRE is there's a PV project that gets built somewhere else, and it feeds into the grid. So this...in this case, for Maui, it might feed into MECO's grid...and so then you in turn would purchase, or lease, or do a pay-as-you-go program that would purchase the energy generated from CBRE, and then that would go to your average monthly electricity consumption, and each person would receive a credit based on that. And for those who participate in it, then it becomes a way that you can get part of this program, and so you can receive more bill credits by participating in this. There's some other programs as well. So Hawai`i Energy also has this Energy Relief Grant Program to fund energy efficiency improvements for non-profits, and small businesses, and others experiencing economic loss during COVID. So that's a program that's been set up to help people now experiencing difficulty, and it can cover 100 percent of eligible expenses on pre-approved energy efficiency projects, up to $25,000. And so the deadline for the first round was September 30th, that's passed, but now we're getting ready for...or Hawai`i Energy is getting ready for another round, and it can cover things like LED lighting *. . .(timer sounds). . .* sorry, I realize I'm over time...old and inefficient air conditioning units, aging commercial kitchen equipment, and upgrading your heat pump, water heater or solar water heater. We also have some other programs in the works to help enhance community education and understanding of these. The Energy Office itself will be doing some community outreach programs, and others will be doing information on appliance efficiency, how you can get better appliances in your homes to reduce your energy consumption and save money. And then also there's LIHEAP, which is the Low Income Home Assistance...Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps folks pay down...helps...it's a federally-funded program to help with energy bills, and weatherization, and energy-related home repairs. So there's a variety of programs out there, and maybe during the Q&A we can get into a little bit more, but with that, I'll wrap up and thank you again for the opportunity to speak today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you. This is very interesting. I'm glad you introduced all of that. So the next speaker is Mr. Seu from Hawaiian Electric. Oh, there you are.

MR. SEU: Okay. Can you hear me now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. SEU: Okay. Great. Aloha ʻauinala, Madam Chair, Members of the Maui County Council. First off, let me introduce myself. And I apologize. You know, Sharon and I

had great plans that in March, I would start coming around and visit with all of you folks and introduce myself. I've been working with Sharon for quite a while. My time in the electric company dates back to 1993, and I've had the chance to work on a lot of projects in support of Maui County, all of the islands, Maui, Moloka`i, and Lāna'i. So...but in any case, I will get out there soon, as soon as I'm able to. So let me build on what Scott Glenn just presented. Let me share my screen. Okay. If you can confirm that you're seeing this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can see it.

MR. SEU: Okay. Great. Okay. So you know, as Scott laid out--and actually Madam Chair, you...you said, you know, so we have in Hawai'i, of course, a very aggressive set of renewable energy goals. This is what we call our renewable portfolio standard. We often just...you will hear the term "the RPS", renewable portfolio standard. And really, what it means is, it's calculated as a percentage...as a percentage of how much electricity the utility company sells to its customers. So as you can see, the...the ultimate goal is that by 2045, 100 percent of the electricity that we sell will be coming from renewable energy. You know, that's...that's a...when this was adopted back by the legislature in 2015, we testified in support of...of this. We...at the time, we already had a pretty aggressive set of RPS goals. We had to get to the 40 percent by 2030. And I'll share that, you know, we just viewed it as this is the pathway that we're on, so we may as well just, you know, get on board and let's drive to 100 percent. Of course, as we all understand, the details really matter in terms of how you figure out the best way to get there, in terms of different types of renewable energy technologies. Should it be, you know, what's the right mixture between renewable projects that are small scale on rooftops versus larger scale, you know, taking up acreage on our...on our islands, right? So all of these, we...we recognize that we have to, as we go forward, we have to really work very closely with our communities, with our regulators, with our elected officials and...and so on. So...but...but yet, this is the pathway that...that Hawai'i is on. So far, so good. We are on track to making the 2020 goal. And again, we have to hit 30 percent RPS by...by the end of 2020. This just shows, actually, our official RPS performance over the past almost ten years here, and what you can also see in this slide is it gives you a certain sense of the...of...of the contribution coming from different renewable energy technologies. One of the things to really notice is, when you look at that very top box, or...or the block, that's customer solar. That's rooftop solar. And initially, when Hawai'i launched its RPS--and I should point out, the very first RPS was adopted by law in Hawai'i back in 2001. In 2001, you could probably count on one hand how many rooftop solar systems there were. But you know, as we all know, and Chair, you mentioned back in 2008 when the oil prices skyrocketed, right? At about that time, we saw electricity going really, really expensive because of the oil. We also saw the State pass more aggressive tax credits for Hawai'i consumers, right? And...oh, and then the other thing is that the cost of solar technology started to come down. And well, I hate to say this, but it was primarily driven when...when the Chinese manufacturers jumped into the market, and that's when you...by the time you got to the year 2011, '12, '13, that's where you really saw the boom in rooftop solar programs. So you know, and that's sort of reflected in the...in the chart that you see here. You know, so that, as of today, when you look at

that green block, that is the biggest percentage of where we're getting our renewable energy from. It's our customer...customer-owned solar systems across the islands, across people's rooftops. I'm going to...well, okay, you're going to ask, "Well where are we in 2020?" Okay. In terms of 2020, where we are, of course we're not done with the full year, but I will tell you this, that because of COVID, because it's basically shut down our tourism economy, the amount of electricity that's being used across the islands is actually down compared to pre-COVID. And as you folks know better than me, nowhere is that more true than on Maui. So as a result, when you do the math in terms of how much renewable energy, the percentage based on how much electricity is being sold, we are actually well ahead of the 30 percent RPS already here in 2020. On the Hawaiianelectric.com website, you can go there, and there's a tab that says "About Us" and under the about us tab, there is a key performance metrics section. And one of the areas that we report on is our RPS, our renewable energy. As I look at it right now, we have recorded through the end of the second quarter of 2020. So as a total across the islands that we serve--and of course we serve, as a reminder, we serve all islands, with the exception of Kauaʻi--right now, at the end of the second quarter, our RPS was at 35.7 percent, okay? And you know, I'll also point out that on the island of Maui, we were actually reporting 51.6 percent RPS at the end of the second quarter. And again, it's primarily because we've seen the usage of electricity drop so much, especially among the...the hotel industry. Of the Maui renewables, 24 percent of that 51.6 percent, 24 percent comes from customer-sited renewable energy, basically the rooftop solar. Another 26...almost 26 percent comes from...from the wind farms on...on Maui, and then about 1.7 percent comes from what we call utility scale solar. So those are the larger solar farms that are now in operation on Maui. So yeah, that's just to give you a sense of where we currently stand. Now going forward...oops, running two computers here, sorry. Okay, so there's a lot of information that's packed onto this slide. And first and foremost, let me refer to the table on the right side, okay? Because this really sort of captures, at a higher level, what we call our...this is basically our different renewable energy procurements that we're...that we've run or we're running. So starting with the stage...what we call our Stage 1 RFP, or requests for proposals, in 2018, we put out this request for renewable energy proposals, and you can see by island what was targeted in that RFP. It was, you know, really primarily being driven toward solar energy, but also, where you see that line item that says "Storage", that...that basically means in.. we're looking for energy storage systems, basically batteries, that work together with the solar farms to be able to help us bring that solar electricity into the energy system smoothly and, you know, in effect, it...it...it sort of makes it so that as you see solar power go up and down because of clouds and so on, it helps us to smooth out that...that...that power coming into the energy system. So these are the procurements. You see another thing called "Grid Services". Grid services basically means on...and again, this is more on the electric utility side. For us to run each island's energy system, in addition to procuring the kilowatt hours of electricity from the solar farms and of course, from the existing wind farms and such, we also have to make sure that the electric system itself has what we call grid services, which allow us to, again, make sure that the electricity that's delivered to customers is smooth and stable and reliable. So that's what that refers to. Then you get into the Stage 2 RFP, and that's the most recent one. We put that out last year for...for all the islands. You can see the...the amount of electricity

we're...we're hoping for, as well as storage. Here, you can also see that for Molokaʻi and Lāna'i, we also have some procurement going on. For Lāna'i, you'll notice it says "Combined with CBRE". So that's the community-based renewable energy program that Scott Glenn just described. So we are, right now, in...for all of these Stage 2s, on many of the islands, we've already signed contracts with the developers that have been selected for the Stage 2 RFP, and we've submitted many of those contracts to the Public Utilities Commission now for them to review and hopefully approve. On the Molokaʻi and Lāna'i, those are still in the process. We have not yet negotiated any...any contracts. For Lāna'i, I think it's going to be a little bit later before we actually issue the RFP there because of the interaction with the CBRE program, but then also, as you folks know, everything gets coordinated very closely with Pūlama Lāna'i as well. So more to come on Lāna'i. And then finally, you see the CBRE program. Just...the only thing I'll mention there that Scott didn't, you know, just to stress, is this is Phase 2. So Phase 1 was a much smaller program, but now that we've learned from Phase 1, we're going much bigger with Phase 2. So we are current in the process of developing an RFP, which will solicit CBRE program...projects. You'll also notice that there is a line that refers to an LMI project, uncapped LMI project. LMI stands for "Low-to-Moderate Income". So what the PUC really wants us to do, and what we want to do as well, is not only issue a CBRE program for all customers, but then also have projects that are being developed where low-to-moderate income customers specifically can participate and get benefits on their bills. So that's what that refers to. The left side tables, it just gives you more information about the Stage 1 and Stage 2 RFP projects for Maui County. And what you can see there is, again, you know, the size of the projects, the name, the location, and of course the estimated start date for those...those projects. Okay? And then, very...at the very bottom again, going back to our Hawaiian Electric website, that's where you can find all of this information, and we keep it regularly updated. So for example, if we sign a new contract with a developer and submit it to the PUC, we'll reflect that in these tables. You'll also see the status of, like, developers that have been selected, but we're still in negotiations with them about a...a contract. So we're just trying to put more information out there, so that everybody can understand where we are, okay? And this is...I...I'm not going to spend too much time on this. From a long-range perspective, we don't want to just randomly issue RFPs. We want to make sure that as we move forward, we're...we're trying to stitch together what makes the most sense for each of the islands from a planning perspective. And it really does matter, right? How big these projects are; the types of technologies; where are they located. But what you also see, and it's meant to be reflected in this sort of rainbow diagram on the right-hand side, is that there are lots of potential moving parts or pieces to this long-range energy plan. Scott mentioned some of the, you know, for example, electrification of transportation. That is a...a very, very valuable program, or I...I...maybe I shouldn't call it a program. That's a very valuable vision for our entire state, right? Decarbonization of our electric system is very important, but at the same time, if we don't do anything about the transportation side, that's a lot of carbon still left in...in Hawaiʻi. If we, at the utility, can work in partnership with others, like the State or the counties, to electrify transportation, for example, we can play a...a very important role to help develop electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the islands, then we can help spur things on and accelerate electric vehicles. That can

actually help us because when we have all that good solar electricity being generated during the middle of the day, in addition to storing it in batteries, we would love to be able to be able to have people charge their electric cars during the...during the daytime as well. So that's just one...another example that it's not just necessarily converting our power plants to renewable energy, it's also about thinking more holistically across...across the energy system. The one on the bottom is very important, "Other Policies". We have so much value in this...on our islands, right, in terms of sustainable agriculture, needing to have land for affordable housing. We recognize that we can't just think about the energy system future in isolation from these very important State policies. So that's where...and this is my last slide, that's where it really gets to how we approach thinking about renewable energy planning, and even our RFPs. Everything that I've described already about our procurement process, it started with this high-level State energy policy; get off of fossil fuels; convert to renewable energy, right? And that determines us coming up with these RFPs. That's what drives developers coming in and giving us project proposals, and ultimately, that's what ends up with projects being built in people's communities. I will tell you this. In the original...in the early days, that's exactly how the process worked. And unfortunately, a lot of the input coming from our communities didn't come until later on in that process. We've been able to evolve the process, so that, for example, in our Stage 2 RFP, the most recent one, we actually required all the developers, even before, well before we even signed any contract, that actually, when they bid into the RFPs, they actually had to propose what was their specific community engagement plans, who were they working with, what was their experience working with others; communities in other locations and so on. And then, as they went through the process, they had to start sharing information with...with the public. Now, it's still not a perfect process though, because that still is not necessarily driving how you shape the RFP to begin with. Molokaʻi is probably an example of where we actually spent time up front with community members. You know, this is where Mahina and Kuhea and, you know, folks from Maui Electric spent a lot of time on Molokaʻi hosting numerous roundtable discussions. And it was really to try and capture input about what kinds of renewable technologies did the community want to see on Molokaʻi; what were some of the limitations; what were some of the values, right, that really should be driving what we think about when we go forward with a future RFP. And ultimately, that all helped us...inform us for the Molokaʻi RFP, the Stage 2. We actually were able to capture, I think, over 400 comments from...from those community sessions in an addendum to our RFP, so that any bidder would know very much what were...what the sense of the community was. It's still not perfect, I...I recognize that. As...as we go forward and, you know, Scott Glenn and I have had many discussions along these lines, is I would really want to see it where communities really are able to have that upfront input, and that actually does help us design our RFPs even more so. So that by the time we go out with the procurement and projects are proposed with the...the technologies, the locations, you know, as much as possible, it...it at least hopes to address, you know, some of the potential community desires and concerns. I know no...no process is perfect, no project is perfect. But more and more, I think, as we deal with, you know, limited land space on our island, it's going to be very, very critical that we rethink how we do this; traditionally a top down process, and make so it's more bottoms up, or at least have it do a little bit of

both. So I know I'm...I'm over time. I want to stop there and just mahalo all of you for giving me the chance to share, and I'll wait until Q and A for...for more discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Seu. I wanted...great presentation. I wanted to hear about Moloka'i, so now I see how it all fits in. Welcome Tasha Kama, I'm sorry, you were here for a while sitting, and I didn't see you until Mr. Seu was speaking. So thank you, Ms. Kama, for being here. Next we have Nicolette van der Lee from SLIM, or UH...University of Hawai'i Maui College, Sustainable Living Institute of Maui. Nicolette, are you on?

MS. VAN DER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there you are.

MS. VAN DER LEE: I could --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your video's not on.

MS. VAN DER LEE: Thank you...video's not on?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see a white panel. Oh, there. I can see you now. Thank you.

MS. VAN DER LEE: Okay. Okay. Very good. Aloha, and thank you for inviting me to the panel today. I'm going to share my screen just for a brief presentation. Okay, everyone able to see the presentation?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. VAN DER LEE: Wonderful. My name is Nicolette van der Lee, and I'm a program coordinator at University of Hawai'i Maui College in our Office of Extended Learning and Workforce Development. At UHMC, we have college and career pathways that support the State's Aloha+ Challenge goals of developing a green workforce. Briefly, some of these existing green workforce programs that you may be familiar with include our Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Science Management, an Associate Degree in Construction Technology, our apprenticeship programs in partnership with the unions, an automotive technology training for electric vehicle service and repair, as well as our non-credit industry-valued credentials that we coordinate through the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui, or SLIM. The mission of SLIM is to optimize Maui's economy by helping people build the skills that are compatible with the community's cultural choices and economic aspirations to support Maui's economic development, and serve as a model for building and managing holistic communities globally. Some of the green workforce trainings that I coordinate include our building operator certification that's sponsored by Hawai'i Energy to support energy efficiency in our facilities operations on island. I also coordinate a farm apprentice mentoring program in partnership with Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and other certificates, such as the sustainable leadership and energy efficient lighting workshops. Today I'm going to share information on our current workforce training programs in the

renewable energy sector that are seeking to respond to the growing demands for a trained workforce, specifically in the PV Solar industry. With the new contracts that were recently awarded on Maui, we anticipate a large future hiring need for the construction and installations of the projects, as well as ongoing long-term maintenance and servicing, as the State advances towards its goals of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. So to summarize the trainings that we're currently offering, we have designed a certificate of professional development that integrates curriculum from our nationally-recognized educational partner, Solar Energy International, to provide trainings that lead to industry valued credentials and certifications. In previous years, when the solar industry was focused on residential rooftop solar, we offered similar in-person trainings using the SEI curriculum. And many of the major solar…local solar companies sent their employees for training, and as we trained people, they would be hired by the companies. The college has also train inmates for a project with MEO in the past as well in some of this…these topics. This year, we have begun to ramp up a new, fully online training program in anticipation of the new PV Solar projects on Maui. And offering online is especially valuable to enable distance learning during the COVID pandemic, and respond to the community need to offer new college and career pathways for unemployed, dislocated, and furloughed residents who may seek new career opportunities as the sector develops. So the trainings in this certificate include an eight-hour introduction to renewable energy course that is designed for those new to the field, people looking to make a career change, or those who just want to learn more about energy from sun, wind and water, as well as energy efficiency and the basics of electricity. For example, a course like this is made up of ten lessons. Each has video presentations, readings, quizzes, and discussion forums, so it does include an assessment. From that intro course, participants then advance to a 60-hour solar electric design and installation course, which is equivalent to an entry-level training in PV solar installations. This course reviews the fundamentals of various components, custom architectures, applications for PV systems, including site analysis; sizing; array configuration; electrical design; inverter specifications; a much more technical kind of course. And it focuses on career direct PV system, and also includes material critical to understanding all types of PV systems. For that course, the participants then advance into a 40-hour PV systems fundamental course that focuses on battery-based systems. With PV systems featuring energy storage is really that rapidly growing segment in the industry, this course gives them that next-level training, builds an understanding in battery-based applications, where the complexity far exceeds the grid-direct PV system, and includes battery bank design, equipment options, as well as components, like charge controllers and inverters. Taking that series of courses prepares the participants for what's called the NABCEP exam. And that's a PV Associate exam. This is an industry-recognized credential from NABCEP, which stands for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners. We provide students with an exam credit worth $150 to sit for this, and during COVID, it's now offered…proctored online, so our participants on Maui can take this without having to go to a physical location. And this credential represents demonstration of basic knowledge of the fundamental principles of application, design, installation, and operation of both grid-tied and standalone PV systems. And we've also started to offer solar safety trainings in partnership with SEI. Two of these courses include a

residential/commercial roof mounted safety course that's 12 hours, as well as a large-scale ground-mounted PV installation safety course that's eight hours, and covers site hazards specific to large, ground-mounted PV installations, which is what these new projects are. To support our Maui residents to pursue these certifications, we currently have grant funding through the Native Hawaiian Education Association, that is a Department of Education Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education grant, so participants receive full tuition sponsorship, so there's no cost for Maui residents to enroll in the trainings. And as part of that program, we also include wraparound student support services, such as resume and interview prep, financial literacy trainings, internship and job placement. So far this year, we have trained 22 participants in this certificate series in the summer, and we currently have another 19 participants in our fall cohort. We're expecting to train between 40 to 60 students per year with our current funding through the Native Hawaiian Education Association's CTE grant. We're also in the process of enrolling 30 participants as part of the City of Honolulu Oʻahu Back-to-Work program to train unemployed and furloughed workers on Oʻahu as a rapid response training program using their CARES funding. The UH community college system was also recently awarded a $13.3 million reimagine workforce preparation grant developed by the Hawaiʻi Workforce Development Council, UH, and other partners, to build on the momentum of statewide industry workforce development and educational planning towards a thriving, diverse, and resilient Hawaiʻi. The project will increase employment paths to in-demand living jobs in three resilient sectors; healthcare, technology and skilled trades, and they see that skilled trades will include our renewable energy sector. And the goals of this new grant are to increase short-term training that leads to industry-valued credentials, such as the program I just shared with you, increasing employment and in-demand living wage jobs, expanding high-quality apprenticeship opportunities throughout Hawaiʻi, and developing post-apprenticeship career pathways and advancement opportunities. So we believe that the trainings I just presented to you will form a foundation for further development of workforce trainings in clean energy that we will be able to develop with this new grant funding, and including, potentially, a concept of a recognized...industry-recognized apprenticeship program for PV associates as one idea. So the trainings that I've presented to you today, they really seek to prepare a workforce for growing opportunities in green jobs in the PV solar sector. An example of some of the jobs are solar PV installers, PV technicians, and salespersons. I think it's also important to highlight that our local solar companies also have many other roles, such as project managers, HR professionals, bookkeepers, and other professional service companies within the industry. So as the...the sector grows, you know, there are more jobs beyond just the ones that are specifically installation. And we also anticipate the ongoing need for the construction sector supporting the growth of the...of these projects; electricians; masons; carpenters; operating engineers that provide the design and installation services for the growing PV solar sector. As in any sector, there are a diversity of job skills needed to support Maui's green workforce development. In conclusion, at UH Maui College, we intend to stay informed of emerging opportunities, and respond to the training needs of our community through a systems approach that integrates the industry, government, education, and our workforce needs, to achieve a sustainable vision of the future. Thank you for having me today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So appreciate your presentation. And our next speaker is our own Alex de Roode, which is our County Energy Commissioner. Did I say your last name correctly, Alex? Your --

MR. DE ROODE: Never look like you're driving down the road. The road.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, the road? Okay.

MR. DE ROODE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . it's a...it's a bit confusing. Yes, thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. I also have a presentation to share with you, and our...my co-presenter's here have covered a lot of what I intended to share with you, so I won't repeat everything they've said, but a lot of good information has been shared. And let me see if I can get a share screen going here. Okay. Slideshow. How is that? Is that coming in clearly for folks?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. DE ROODE: Yeah? Okay. Okay. So looking at our trajectory to 100 percent clean energy by 2045, again, a lot has been shared today around those topics. Between HECO, the Hawai'i State Energy Office, the Public Utilities Commission, there's a lot of information out there, and it can be challenging to...to follow and...and track, and that's part of my job. And so try to synthesize some of the highlights for you. As was mentioned earlier, in 2019, we hit, in Maui County, 40.8 percent of our RPS. And we can see, as Chair Sugimura pointed out earlier, one of...of the goals there is the retirement of the Kahului Power Plant, which is at almost 40 megawatts. That's, I think, currently scheduled to be retired by 2024, I believe. If my colleagues know otherwise, they could correct me, but I believe 2024 is the scheduled phase-out of Kahului Power Plant. So when we're looking at the renewables that we're bringing online in order to achieve our clean energy goals, right? And we're trying to head towards 100 percent by 2045, we have to look at what are the existing legacy power plants that we have. That's really what we're trying to replace, as well as any additional future electricity needs, right? Any future loads that we're going to be bringing online, which could be tied to population growth potentially. However, what...it is somewhat of a moving target, and I think there's a...possibly a maybe false perception that we're heading towards this 100 percent renewable energy goal, and then once we got there, we're...we're golden, right? We...we made it. We're at 100 percent. Everything's good to go. That 100 percent is going to continue to move as we bring on additional load, right? And one of the big additional electricity loads that we are in the...in the process of bringing on is transportation, the electrification of transportation. We're basically substituting all of that gasoline and diesel, at least if not 100 percent of it, a good chunk of it, by...with electricity. So we're going to have to actually meet that emerging need as well. And then we obviously have other ways to fuel transportation with clean energy, be it biofuels, hydrogen potentially in the future. So again, as was mentioned, towards our RPS, we are...in Quarter 2 of this calendar year, we did hit, in Maui County, 51.6 percent, and you can kind of see the progression there over time for the past couple of years. I will mention here that this

number here, going back to the previous slide, April 15, 2019, we hit a renewable peak of 77 percent. All right? So that means that in the middle of the day, maybe it was noon or 2 p.m. somewhere in that range probably, on April 15th, 77 percent of our County's electricity was being provided by renewables. But that's not a consistent. That's not what we're hitting all the time, right, that's a peak. We also know that we have peaks that require curtailment, right? That we have...at certain times, we're over-generating. We're generating more, especially non-firm renewables, than the grid needs. And so there's this whole effort as well to balance that, right? How do we not have to curtail or not use some of that renewable energy that we're generating, and instead either store it or shift when we're generating the renewable electricity to meet that...those...those loads? Here we have an overview, and the Hawai'i State Energy Office website has an interactive map here, where you can see some of the projects, where they're located and get information on the individual projects. These include projects that are not part of the HECO RFPs, but are larger-scale projects, like Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, and UH Maui College partnered on a project on Kaho'olawe, so those aren't...these are not all part of the Phase 1 or Phase 2 HECO RPs. But that's a good...that Hawai'i State Energy Office interactive map is a relatively new resource, and a good one for Council Members looking to kind of track and visually see the various projects coming online. And then looking at Moloka'i and Lāna'i as well. BESS is basically energy storage, Battery Energy Storage Systems, so there are projects as well that more and more, as we're hitting those max capacities of what the grid can handle, in terms of taking in intermittent or non-firm renewables, we're looking at storage to help stabilize that and allow us to then use that stored energy when we need it, during peak demand hours. In our Phase 2, our recent RFPs, this is the location of the three projects that have moved forward and have been approved by the PUC. So we have one out here in Napili, another Pulehu project on Haleakalā ranch land, and then a battery energy storage project approved near the landfill. We had...some of you may have heard of the Kama'ole project, which was also on Haleakalā ranch land, not far from the Pae'ahu project, which is just above Maui Meadows, that many of you are familiar with. There was another project proposed, and that one, basically the developer pulled out before the contracts were finalized with HECO, so that did not get included in the Phase 2 RFP. I'm not going to go through this whole list, but I provided this presentation to Council Members. This gives you a pretty good overview of County of Maui projects to date that have been either deployed or proposed, or are under development. And you can see the projects growing in size, right? So some of our earlier projects that have been already deployed and...and...and are existing, are in the 2.8 megawatt range, and some of these newer projects that are coming online, like the AES project in Kuihelani are up to 60 megawatts, right? So we're talking, you know, 25 times or more larger projects than these early projects that we saw go up in North Kihei and out in Lahaina. And we know that with that, there's...there is significant...there are significant issues that we have to overcome as a community, right, including land use issues and not-in-my-backyard or NIMBY considerations. And so as we're moving forward in determining where these projects are going to be sited, these are considerations that we have to really look at carefully. I won't...I won't spend too much time on this slide. I...I will say that in terms of incentives for encouraging the adoption of more renewables, the Federal and State energy tax credits have been a tremendous driver. And for those

individuals who can benefit from the tax credits, who have that tax liability, and even for those that...that don't, where you can actually get a refundable credit, right? So this...this...the State tax credit allows folks who don't have the tax liability to get this refundable credit, that's been a...a big driver in making photovoltaics, especially rooftop photovoltaics in the residential sector, but also in the commercial sector, more affordable and more viable for people to pursue. And you saw in an earlier presentation, how much of the total that rooftop solar makes up of our solar renewable energy, right? Quite a bit. That's going to be shifting now, with these large-scale...large-utility-scale projects coming online. We're going to see more of those big utility-scale projects taking a bigger percentage than where we are currently. But there is, you know, always talk about should we phase out the renewable energy tax credits? They are being phased out. Here, you can see the Federal tax credits being phased out over time, down to ten percent by 2022. Started at 30 percent, so this year went down to 26 percent, next year 22 percent. And then on the State side, there hasn't been a agreed-upon reduction over time of those tax credits, but there is talk about should that tax credit still be made available, especially given our budget constraints in our...in our State budget. And I would say if we want to continue to encourage this industry to grow, this is not the right time to be pulling those tax credits away. What this also does, is it allows individual homeowners to have PV on their roofs and require less of these big projects to have to...to be implemented, right? Where we have these land use issues. When we have them on rooftops, and they're spread out and distributed, everybody kind of has some of that burden, if you will, of having it in their backyard, or on your rooftop. So we also have constraints on the grid, right? In terms of...this is a locational value map that you can access through the HECO website, which can tell you the capacity on circuits that take new renewables, and if your house, you can actually look up by your home address, right? You enter your address in this field, and it will tell you, here's how much capacity is left on that circuit to be able to take on more renewables. Now, there are different programs out there, that even if the capacity is maxed out, now with a program like customer self-supply, which is basically having a system that can operate as off-grid, that doesn't feed back into the grid at your home, you could now still pursue renewable energy at your home or business, even if there's no ability for the grid to take on more at that circuit. You would just be on site, right? It...it wouldn't export. Now obvious...that does make the financial liability not quite as attractive if you can't get a credit from the utility under, for example, a CGS+ program. CGS+ is Customer Grid Supply. So this is where a CBRE comes in. CBRE, you...if...we've already had several presenters refer to it. It's kind of a...a...that...that space in between the individual rooftop solar and...and...and small commercial solar, and the large utility-scale solar. These are neighborhood-scale projects that can...that can provide renewable energy to kind of a neighborhood scale blocks, which is why they're often referred to as Community Solar. As was mentioned previously, allows subscribers who do not have privately-owned rooftop solar because of various reasons, whether it's economic reasons or infrastructure reasons, to still allow them to participate and benefit from renewable energy. One of the benefits is also getting credits on your electric bill, right? So if you subscribe as a subscriber to a...to a CBRE project, you actually get cheaper electricity than if you were to pay the standard rates to...to the utility, and that gets applied as a credit to your...to your bill. So this is a way to also

address economic challenges of people being able to pay their electric bills. We are under discussions right now, and they have been ongoing. I know my predecessor, Fred Redell, who's about to present to you as well, already initiated some of these conversations, and we're continuing them to see, could the County of Maui serve as a potential landowner for the siting of CBRE projects where, for example, we may be able to host a project on a community center parking lot, or a wastewater treatment plant, and have a project sited there that could serve the nearby community. So we are in conversations about that, to see if we could...if we could help facilitate some of those projects. I won't get into too many of the details here. I...I have some details on the CBRE programs, but you can see under Phase 1, which was, again, quite smaller, right? One...one megawatt limitations, and 16.5 cents was the credit rate for Maui island. And you can see with the higher electricity costs on Molokaʻi and Lāna'i, those rates were...were higher on those islands. So that is what a subscriber would get credited on their bill for a...a kilowatt hour that they would be subscribed to under *(audio interference)* program. Phase 1 is limited to eight megawatts state-wide, Phase 2, 235 megawatts. So, you know, quite an expansion of that CBRE program. And there's special emphasis, as was mentioned, on LMI or low-to-moderate income residential customers. So how can these programs benefit LMI households specifically? So in terms of COVID response economic recovery, this is a mechanism by which we can provide jobs, investments, tax revenues, and help offset some of the high energy costs, especially for...for LMI households. The Phase 2 project's expected to go online through 2021 calendar year, and you can see here, there are actually...this is also very...you know, complex to follow, but there are multiple RFP processes underway. We have one for low-to-moderate incomes specifically for Maui island. That's only targeting low-to-moderate income households that draft RFPs before the PUC. Molokaʻi has its own draft RFP with LMI encouraged, which means proposals to serve LMI communities are...get a higher rating or assessment, but also, non-LMI projects are still accepted. And Lāna'i, as well, has a similar one. So right now, the latest I've heard, and this has been kind of changing over time as the PUC adjusts testimony and...and periods for comment. RFPs likely to be issued in December, with proposals being due three to four months later by IPPs, Independent Power Producers, or developers that want to participate in...in getting these projects underway. I won't get into too many more of the details, but overall, Phase 2, Maui island, we have about 30.975 megawatts of CBRE for Phase 2. That includes 975 kilowatts that were rolled over from Phase 1. Molokaʻi had 2.75 megawatts, and Lāna'i had 3 megawatts, for a total CBRE for Phase 2. And that includes small and large projects. This was in earlier, but you can see kind of the process that...that we do go through as either parties or different stakeholders involved in a CBRE RFP process with the PUC, it's quite involved, right? And this is actually now an outdated timeline, but this is an example of the...the various stages that you go through to get from concept to actual implementation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you kind of wrap it up? Oh, you wrapped it up.

MR. DE ROODE: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much, Alex. So the next, and last

speaker, is Fred Redell.

MR. REDELL: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha, Fred.

MR. REDELL: And thank you for the opportunity. Well, let me give a little bit of background about myself quickly. As...as many of you know, I was the energy commissioner prior to Alex under the prior administration, and I came to the County with about 30 years of experience building...building and operating large-scale projects, ultimately on renewable energy, doing about 580 megawatts of solar projects, and about 1,680 megawatts of energy storage projects before working with the County. And I'm really glad to see Sharon, who's a...a...who I feel is a friend of mine, and we had an interesting kinship, I think, when I first came because I brought a different view than others, and...and let's say I always spoke my voice. I don't think we always agreed on everything, but at least we had a wonderful relationship. So let me first start with a very short presentation, and then I'll switch back to speaking a little bit about what the...what the organization that I'm working with now is trying to do. I'll share my screen for a moment. Let me know when you see my screen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. REDELL: Perfect. So Hawai'i Clean Power Alliance. So we're a small organization that's really geared toward, you know, working with independent power producers to come to Hawai'i in a responsible way, be able to interact with others, work with the utility, and...and have a single voice for large-scale projects, you know, in the State. That's what our focus is. So a...a quick...a few quick notes on what we try to do. Now, we're...we're really interested in accelerating renewable energy for many of the reasons that everybody has already mentioned before, you know...you know, I'm speaking now. The...we're a nonprofit organization, and we're really interested in advancing renewable energy at scale, because our...our firm belief is that at scale, when grid connected, benefits all participants on the grid, and...and it's a firm belief that we've shared, you'll...you'll remember from when, you know, I worked with the County. There's a difference between how renewable energy has been developed in the State, and how it can be developed going forward. In the past, there's great programs. The rooftop solar programs moved a lot of renewable energy into the islands, but it was only able to really be put on places where residents had a good enough credit, they owned the home, and they were economically in a position to be able to do that. Large-scale projects, everybody gets a benefit...benefit from these, without any extra programs like that. So what we're trying to do is make sure that these sorts of projects can actually, you know, make it onto the grid and be a benefit to everybody. And this includes community-based renewable energy projects, with...which Alex noted. I was very much in favor of, especially and perhaps only, when they were focused towards low-to-moderate income participants. Because these are the people who even when we're looking at the inequities of COVID at the moment, have, you know, we...we need to find a way to make sure can participate going forward. And this...that will be one of the programs that hopefully will bring a lot of value to those

people and really turn around the way that we look at how we use renewable energy in the future. We're also involved in advocating for *(audio interference)*, identifying issues, creating a dialogue, where we need to, to collaborate with folks, so that when projects come forward, as they are now, people have access to the right folks. I try always to make connections with contractors. Some of the folks on Maui called me and asked how do I connect with this developer or that developer, and that's really what we're all trying to foster. So my last slide is, and I'll talk a little bit more about things, is just a mahalo and a little contact information here at Hawai'i Clean Power Alliance. Let me stop sharing this, and then I'll get back to where you can see my face. As most people say, I have a...a voice for print and a face for radio, but here we go. So again, so as I mentioned, you know, we're really trying to help move along how the State can get to 100 percent renewable energy. I think a lot of folks, because solar right now is...is so cheap, they're focused on this is going to be the only thing we're going to do, right? But that...that isn't the case. Of course, there's a lot of work going on still in biofuels, which the...the Hawai'i Clean Power Alliance is very interested in...in promoting. This would include, you know, biodiesels, of course it includes hydrogen. You're going to see renewable methanol within a number of years, helping the State become more green. And methanol, of course, can be used for transportation in shipping and such. So the greening of even the shipping portion of the economy in Hawai'i can be touched through renewable energy. It's really because of the low-cost nature of renewable energy, a lot of these other liquid fuels and other fuels can be, you know, brought to *(audio interference)*. But what's really economic right now, of course, is solar and *(audio interference)*. Solar plus batteries. So some of the work that the organization has been doing, and...is really to understand how to move forward in a sustainable way. And I thought it was great that the utility present...presented that sort of rainbow chart, looking at all aspects of how you...you need to pay attention to how things advance. I...I think folks that recall my time at...and what the County...I made a lot of comments about a lot of different projects and how they were being advanced. Of course on...on the island, my favorite island, Moloka'i, you know, the projects there, I was really concerned what would happen if you had a disruption, like a lot of renewable energies pass through the fuel system? Well, we saw something different. We saw COVID turn up, and we saw disruptions in the fuel market to Hawai'i. So I think what...you know, but paying attention to the entire system is really what's...what's going to be important, you know, in...you know, in making this transition. We need to make sure that the policies that have been in place...the bottom line of what was on that rainbow chart there, are taking into account how does the County pay for things? How does the County get compensated under the franchise tax for the use of the right-of-way for the...for the County? What does that pay for? Is that getting eroded because of how renewable energy might be transformed? And...and making sure that when we look at how to develop projects, that the whole system is intact. And you know, in thinking about that, we should also then focus on, and this is really the foundation of what I've been trying to push with the organization, you know, the overall economics of Hawai'i. There's money that comes into Hawai'i, there's money that circulates in Hawai'i, and there's money that exports from Hawai'i. And...and when, you know, Councilmember Sugimura first started this discussion, there was talking about $7 or $8 billion dollars on energy, or money going out of the island for energy coming onto the island. That isn't necessarily

perfectly fixed by having a huge investment of renewable energy if it's not done correctly. And so it really needs to be done in the way that the right amount of money is going off the island, the right amount of money's creating jobs, creating fuel, doing other things, and using then the assets that also exist on the island. So it's...it's not going to just be solar, it...it will be a mix of those things. Then...then the last thing I really wanted to touch on here is again, you know, the solar portion, it...it's available now, and focusing it again on low-to-moderate income people, you know, households and such with community-based renewable energy, is one area that can bridge between large-scale projects and help, you know, avoid the inequities that we've seen in the past. So with that, I really thank you, and I...I thank you all for the time that I got to spend with the County before. That was...I think I learned a lot, after working in the industry for 30 years, I think that I've learned more about how to touch the community in a better way as an independent power producer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Yeah, we enjoyed you when you were here. So glad that you're still continuing on with your passion. Thank you very, very much. So Members, at this time, you want to take, like, a five-minute break, and then we'll continue on with questions? Yes? Okay. So I'm going to take...is five minutes enough? Five-minute recess? Ten-minute? Okay. Ten-minute recess. So we'll come back at 3:10. So I'm going to take a recess at this time. Thank you very much, everybody. We'll be back at 3:10. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

RECESS: 3:00 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:11 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Welcome back to the Water, Infrastructure, and Transportation Committee. Thank you, everybody, for your presentations, and I know we're on a limited time schedule. I wanted the Members to ask a question or two, and I think Members have to leave at 4:00, but...so I might lose quorum. My...I wanted to ask Scott Seu a question since he's here, and he mentioned in his presentation about he can give us more information about CBREs. So my question is to clarify the significance of the utility-scale projects in conjunction with a CBRE. Because when you think about it, you're doing these fabulous projects, and then how does this all tie together, you know, for the community? Mr. Seu, if you could?

VICE-CHAIR LEE: He's gone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we lost you.

MR. SEU: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR LEE: I just saw him.

MR. SEU: Now I'm...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I can hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: He's here, I can see him.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yes. We can see --

MR. SEU: Okay. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. SEU: Okay, thank you. Sorry about that. Yeah, so actually, when you think about the large...large utility-scale projects that are being developed, and then you also think about the CBRE RFP that we're in the process of also developing, in...in a way, it's actually where the CBRE projects, I mean, they're out...they're all going to connect into our grid in a similar fashion, right? So from a technical system perspective, you know, they are all going to be operating on...connected all into the energy system on Maui, Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi. We're going to have...they're going to be supported by battery storage systems as an example, and the only real difference is that for the CBRE projects, it's a specific sort of a carve-out, if you will, of certain projects that allow qualifying customers to be able to almost like have a partial ownership of those projects. At least that's...that's one way you can think about it. So like, let's say that you are a...a renter. Let's say that you are a low-to-moderate income customer, and normally, you wouldn't be able to put a...a solar project on your own house, maybe because it's...you're renting you the house. So now you're able, through this billing contract arrangement, this program that we're going to have, you can effectively almost like own a part of that solar farm somewhere else, and then if...you...you get the credit on your electric bill from that...that...that investment, so to speak. Now, for our low-to-moderate income customers, obviously, we also have to design the program so that our LMI customers can participate, right? That they don't have this roadblock of well, I still have to come up with the money somehow to...to participate in the program. So all that has...is going to be taken into account.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So Vice-Chair for this Committee, Alice Lee, asked to be...ask the first round of questions. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR LEE: It's customary. Anyway, Mr. Seu, I noticed that your company and a lot of companies react to, and respond to, legislation. Do you have, like, a department that's...that does research and development, so that you can sort of try and anticipate or plan for the future without having all of these laws requiring you to do whatever? You know, meeting various types of goals and so forth. Because as the expert...with some of the experts in the field, wouldn't you have ideas in terms of how to resolve some of these problems that are different, perhaps, from the legislation that is coming down?

MR. SEU: Yeah. Thank you for that question. You're...you're absolutely correct. What we're

trying to do is be ahead and on top of the technology advancements, right? And if you think about legislation, as much as possible, at least the way that I think about it is, legislation shouldn't try and choose necessarily or predict the future for technology development. I mean, from a perspective of driving economic development, you know, that may be a reason to, you know, express a preference for, like, agriculture-based energy systems and so on, and that's...that is, you know, in line with State policy. But sometimes we do need flexibility, right? We need flexibility in...to determine how best to meet the legislative goals. And that's, you know, what we work very carefully on with the legislators. Our Public Utilities Commission also, I think, they recognize too, that we need to be having flexibility. Because a lot of times, I get asked a question right now, "Scott, tell me exactly what the 100 percent energy system's going to look like." And my honest answer is, "You know what? I can tell you in a sense that we're going to need lots of solar, wind, you know, firm renewable energy like from biofuels, and we're going to need storage." But who am I to predict exactly what new technologies will develop and how much they will cost? And I would love it if actually, we allow that technology development to happen, and then we can take advantage. And I would love it if Hawai'i as a whole could actually become a location where you actually develop and produce that...that technology, as opposed to us always buying it from somewhere else. So yeah, I...I agree with you. Our...our...I...I really appreciate when we're given that flexibility. And we all recognize that I can put out the best plan right now, but it's...you know, five years from now, we're going to have to make adjustments, if not every year. So I...I agree with you.

VICE-CHAIR LEE: Thank you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I --

VICE-CHAIR LEE: -- Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. I don't know why sometimes this button gets stuck. Thank you, Chair. So I have a question for you, Scott, and then for the other Scott Glenn. But will you...you just talked about, you know, allowing for new technology...I think one of the issues is allowing for new technologies, but then once they happen, if you don't support them because you're waiting for the next technology, then you may be waiting for something that never comes along. And of course, you know, I'm speaking from personal experience. And yet, what you need may be right in front of you. So at some point, you're going to have to make some kind of statement about what you need so that you can support the people who have those technologies in moving along. So is there a discussion like that going on at HECO at the top or mid-management levels, about what...at what point do you support the technologies that are in front of you?

MR. SEU: Well, Councilmember King, I...like as using biofuels as an example, you know, I...I...I do think that we are, in our planning process, spending a lot of focus on what the needs of that energy grid will be. And I know that there is, you know, there...there

is a lot of debate that always happens with respect to, number one, how do you make it so that the technology all works together and you have that stable electricity, right? And then number two, how...how do you manage it so that it's all going to be affordable for everybody? And, you know, I do think that as to your point, you know, we can never be aware of what the perfect system is right now, right? Because there's always going to be these developments and variables, like how much does it cost and, you know, where's it going to be produced? So I do think that...well, so anyway, we are having those types of discussions, and I think everybody has to allow that for certain types of technologies, especially when they're, you know, more newer or under development, that you have to accommodate those types of technologies in a certain, you know, to a certain amount, knowing that over time, they're going to be improved; they're going to be more affordable. And you know, probably the best example is rooftop solar, right? So I mentioned in 2001, they started the first RPS. That was also when they first created at the Leg, the first net energy metering requirement. And at that time, rooftop solar, it was expensive, really. There was hardly anybody putting those systems on their roofs. But yet, as a matter of policy, right, we had to put that into law, and the utility offered those programs, and the State passed the tax credits to support it, right? And eventually, now, here we are. So it's a really good example of how you do have to allow for some upfront investment, and understand it might be a little more expensive today, but guess what? We got to plant seeds today for tomorrow.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, no, I agree with it. And one of the things is I was one of the early adopters of solar, and then there...you went through a period of time, well not you personally, but there was a period of time where all of us early adopters got blamed for, you know, taking ourselves off the grid and making electricity more expensive for everybody else. So you know, some point, you got to...you got to appreciate the people who spent more and did the early adoption, you know what I'm talking about?

MR. SEU: I...I very...I very much appreciate --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But --

MR. SEU: -- you, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I mean, we...okay, I won't even tell people nowadays what we spent because it's almost embarrassing, but...but you know, when I'm...we're telling our new technologies, and I was thinking about when Fred Redell was talking about renewable methanol. Because that's one of the things that, you know, my company has looked into for years. And every time they get to a point where it's going to be affordable, then, fossil...petroleum prices get cut, and then, you know, you can't compete. So those are the kinds of things I'm...you know, we have to go forward looking at these, you know, putting some investment into these new technologies. So thank you for that, Scott. And then, Scott Glenn, I just...I...you mentioned GEMS, and I wasn't even aware that program was still going because there was such a big to-do about it when we had it. And you know, Colin Bishop *(phonetic)*, who used to be

here, was…in our State, was running the program for a while, and then when…when he left, I think, you know, things kind of fell apart or something. But is that…can you…is that program still alive and viable?

MR. GLENN: Councilmember, thanks for the question. Yes, GEMS is still alive, it is still viable. We have mainly, I think, State agencies and nonprofits, and small families that are…that are applying for loans through the program. GEMS is, of course, rate payer funded, and one thing that the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority, which is the agency that oversees GEMS, is looking to do is pass the legislature in the upcoming session for borrowing authority because the Federal government has several programs that we're not able to take advantage of right now. One of which, is the U.S. Department of Agriculture offers a…offers loans to states at zero percent interest for rural energy development. And so what we're looking to do, is get authorization for the agency to borrow up to $25 million at zero percent interest and make loans available basically everywhere except the Pearl Harbor to Waikiki area of the State because everywhere else is considered rural by the Federal government, as well as access other sources of funds to create new loaning instruments to diversify away from only using rate payer funds. So not only is it existing and viable, we're also looking to access new financing tools to help with financing renewable energy, especially in our rural communities.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay, great. Well, that's good to know. I guess I kind of fell out of touch with that program. I know that the State legislature was looking into it because they hadn't been giving…dispersing the funds at the rate that was expected. And Chair, can I ask one more question of Mr. Redell? You're muted. Or do you want to…? Yuki, you're muted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. I'm going to go to Mike Molina, because last time, I…I…I completely didn't see him on the screen, and he has to leave, and he's going to --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- have to leave soon too. So sorry about that, Kelly.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If you don't mind.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- I have to leave too, but that's okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Thanks. Mike Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, thank you, Chair. I'm honored. Well, anyway, I was just enjoying all the responses to the questions. Mine is just pretty general to any of the panelists that would like to comment on. You know, as far as investments in renewable energies here in the State of Hawai'i, how do we compare with other states? I presume we're…we're one of the states that, you know, invest heavily in renewable

energies versus, say, oil-rich states like, say, Texas and all of those places. Where are we on that? And as far as the Clean Power Plan, which I believe that goal was to reduce national power sector emissions, how are we with, like, that whole issue as well? If you could please, you know, educate me on that, I'd appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that a Scott Glenn question?

MR. SEU: Scott Glenn, you want to take --

MR. GLENN: I'll...I'll take a stab at it. Thank you, Councilmember. I don't have handy numbers for how other states number the amount of investment that they have in their renewable energy. In terms of scale, certainly Hawai'i, being a smaller state, does not necessarily attract the same scale dollars that, say, New York or California does. In terms of percentage though, Hawai'i is one of the more aggressive states with an RPS. And so I think we are competitive there, but I...I don't have specific numbers at hand. And on your question about the Clean Power Plan, Hawai'i was not part of the Clean Power Plan. It did not apply to us because of our situation.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Last question. Job-wise, we're seeing an...we have an uptick in people employed in the renewable energy sector, and I presume over the long term, we'll get more. So are...are we making progress towards that? Because, you know, there's all this talk of creating new...diversifying our economy. Where are we on...on...in...in that area?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who would like to take that?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Sorry, I'm just throwing out these questions off the top of my head.

MR. GLENN: I could offer some comments. Maybe Nicolette could as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it sounds like a Nicolette.

MR. GLENN: Yeah, we are...we did lose a lot of jobs with COVID. Prior to COVID, Hawai'i had a growing renewable energy sector, and I think HVAC and energy efficiency-related-type jobs were the largest growing source of renewable energy jobs for us. Certainly, rooftop solar and related jobs were also part of it. For utility scale, jobs tend to be on the construction side, and less on the operational side. We're currently, as an office, doing a survey of all the Phase 1/Phase 2 renewable projects that HECO's procuring to understand their...their hiring needs and their...their deployment timeline, so that we can have a better idea about the kinds of...of workers and laborers they're going to need to avoid them having to bring folks from the mainland and, you know, try to work with the community colleges, the labor unions, and others to upscale our employees, our residents, to make sure that we're competitive for these jobs, and not losing them to people who worked on batteries in California or somewhere else, then coming out here for a while. So I was very excited to hear about the work Nicolette's doing. I...I direct messaged to her, saying we want to follow up

with you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you for that point about, you know, giving priority to...to...to the residents here for jobs instead of importing labor and, you know, I guess maybe creating a farm system of labor as it relates for renewable energy projects and so forth, so. Thank...thank you, Mr. Glenn. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Molina.

MS. VAN DER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I saw...I see --

MS. VAN DER LEE: Would you like me to add to that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA -- Keani?

MS. VAN DER LEE: A little bit?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sure. Oh yeah, Nicolette.

MS. VAN DER LEE: Yeah, you know, we've kind of seen a cycle occurring in this sector, where when rooftop was, you know, in high demand, we trained a lot of people for jobs in the rooftop installation with the local companies. And then I think, over the last few years, there's been something of a gap there. And now we're anticipating, with the new, larger commercial projects, and it was interesting to hear more about the community projects, you know, the demand will increase. So you know, we're...we're ready to ramp up as that demand occurs. So you know, the college is here to provide that kind of rapid response as it's needed. One interesting that we're seeing...thing that we're seeing in our current classes, for example, we have an electrical contractor who's actually training their entire team. We've seen that in both courses. And so it's great to see our local employers wanting to invest in training for their teams so that they get these additional skill sets. So I think that'll be another trend that we'll see as well.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Great to hear. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

MR. DE ROODE: Chair, if I may make just a quick comment, a follow up to Nicolette's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's Alex.

MS. DE ROODE: Yeah. You know, we tend to speak about these renewable energy jobs more in the construction context, or the design and install of these systems. I think there's also an opportunity to look at hiring locally, and...and this does happen, but we could even increase this in areas like planning, land use planning associated with

these projects; permitting; legal aspects associated with these projects; the archaeological assessments; environmental impact assessments. So there's a whole sphere there. And then also, looking into the operations and maintenance side of projects, even though those aren't as many jobs on the O and M side. There...there are some, and...and those would actually be longer-term jobs as opposed to just, you know, these go...go through construction and then you're basically done, right? These ongoing O and M would have...would have more life to them in terms of jobs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, go ahead, Keani. You have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, mahalo. Mahalo, Chair. Before I ask my question, I wanted to...it's okay if Member King asks her last question that she had, and then I have a few questions.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You're muted again.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, you're muted again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm trying to go through everybody before we lose quorum, but one more question, Ms. King, and then two questions for Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. Thanks, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. So I wanted to ask Fred. Fred, good to see you again.

MR. REDELL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Good to see you're still here working hard on renewable energy. One of my big issues with PV...not PV, EVs is our system, you know, which is usually...has been owned by a company in Japan. And so it was, you know, I saw that as exporting our energy dollars still. So are you guys working on trying to develop local PVs and local renewable energy systems that you're...you know, you mentioned several things you're working on. I'm really excited about the renewable methanol though because I've seen that rise and fall, that idea, and I hope you guys get there. But is your...are you trying to focus on local renewable energy? Because what I see of...or was it said earlier about the jobs issue being mostly installations, but as far as creating biofuels and producing biofuels, those are operational jobs. Like every day, full-time, family wage-earning jobs. So that's where I'd like to see us get to, some kind

of local ownership so that we keep the dollars here. Is that on your radar?

MR. REDELL: Well, there is a lot in there. On the methanol side, I think that's still…there is, as you know well, there's different blends of what you have as methanol. You have black methanol, grey methanol, brown methanol, blue methanol, green methanol. What we all want to get to is green methanol. What will probably come next is blue methanol, which is carbon sequestration with the production of methanol. I'm not sure that you'll see that necessarily on the islands given the scale of projects to get economic where I think that the ions will probably see…and I'd love to talk to you more about this, you know, is...you know, is it biofuels in general what's produced, you know, from, you know, sorghum, from...from *(audio interference)* processes, I think that that would be very healthy, of course, for Hawai`i. And then the production of hydrogen in time. Let's say that that will take off in some areas in the United States. Let's say more on the mainland where there's a lot of excess electricity, folks will produce hydrogen. But that economy will start to then roll in and you'll locally produce the hydrogen in Hawai`i with the excess energy, right? So I think that there's a lot for fuels still to come, and I wouldn't say that it's all just one aspect. And when you get to actually farming and producing energy that way or other ways, you'll have, like what I was saying, more circulation of the money, rather than just in and out. You need that circulation to have a healthy economy.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, thank you for that answer. Yeah, we've passed a resolution supporting a circular economy --

MR. REDELL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- so that's kind of on the radar, is how do we keep that here in the islands, and especially in Maui County. Thank you so much, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, I appreciate it. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're welcome. Mahalo, Chair. Okay, my two questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay, mahalo, everyone, for your presentations and for being here today. So I have…so I can only ask two questions right now, but I have a lot. I wanted to thank Nicolette and their team for the work that they're doing. I actually think that my husband is part of that program that is teaching, training people to do solar panel installation and all of that work and, yeah. So awesome work. And I think I'll ask my first question to Mr. Redell. Aloha, Mr. Redell, it's nice to meet you. I've heard only good things about you from Emilia Nordhook. So regarding the work that your alliance is doing, the Hawai`i Clean Power Alliance, you mentioned that the focus of what you are doing is to bring outside IPPs into Hawai`i. And so is there a reason that…or is your focus also to work with those Hawai`i-based? Okay.

MR. REDELL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're nodding your head. Okay, go ahead.

MR. REDELL: Yes. Oh, absolutely. It's really to make an attractive system for independent power producers to participate in Hawai`i's economy, and regardless of whether it's off the island or on the island, you know, where the company is owned. We're really looking to foster an environment that will allow for renewable energy projects to be economical, to be able to be used by everyone, and be grid-connected. Because we firmly believe that grid-connected projects, whether they're under CBRE program or not, everyone on the grid gets to benefit. That's really the wonderful thing of that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Redell. I agree completely, and so does a lot of those in…on Moloka`i. We've been working hard to try to meet the deadline for the CBRE, and it doesn't look like we're going to be able to meet that deadline for Phase 2 this time around. We've been working really hard to get a co-op going so that we'll be able to have that be a community-owned, reaching the LMI, you know, those that fall into the lower-to-moderate income. So my next question is for Mr. de Roode. Aloha, nice to see you. So we see other, you know, government entities that are, you know, that are supporting this effort. Because it looks like, you know, we're, what, in October. So Moloka`i, 100 percent renewable energy is not going to happen this year, unfortunately. And I'm hoping, you know, we can recalibrate so that we can still shoot for that goal because I…you know, I really want to see that happen sooner rather than later. So we have DHHL that's put out an RFP to integrate or to have solar projects on DHHL land, and they're going through consultation with beneficiaries right now. And so we're looking at, you know, incorporating some kind of farming project with solar on Moloka`i so that it supports the goal of DHHL, which is bringing Hawaiians back to the land. So my question to Mr. de Roode is, what role do you see yourself and the County in supporting our islands in achieving CBRE? For example, we have location sites such as, you know, Kualapu`u Rec Center, that would be an ideal location for a smaller CBRE project. And, you know, that…as we know, it's County owned, and perhaps something, you know, that the County would be able to partner with our community in getting off the ground. Mr. de Roode.

MR. DE ROODE: Yes, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, thank you for the question. You know, the role that I play in general is really one of a facilitator. There is not a…you know, I don't have the magic wand or the gavel to make the decisions myself. However, just like Fred Redell mentioned, you know, connecting developers to landowners, or developers and sources of funding, that's really the type of, you know, the focus that we have through my position. Particularly with regards to Moloka`i and CBRE, we were in discussions right now with a…with Parks and Rec and Corporation Counsel to figure out what the mechanism would be to allow the County to basically offer County land for the development of CBRE projects. And it looks like the latest I heard from the PUC--and as I mentioned in my presentation, the timeline of the RFP being released and the proposals being due to be submitted is shifting a bit. So we may actually have time to participate in Phase 2, fingers crossed. But there are…it's always more complex when you're a public entity, as you know, with the procurement

side, right? So Haleakala Ranch or Moloka`i Ranch would be a bigger landowner, and can much more easily enter into these agreements. And so we're looking, for example, at how firm does the agreement between the landowner and the developer or the Independent Power Producer need to be prior to being able to allowing that IPP to submit a proposal to HECO, and then for them to still be qualified. Do we have to have a concession agreement in place with all the I's dotted and T's crossed? Or can we have, for example, a letter of intent that says, should you be selected under the HECO RFP process, we would then....we would have to put out our own RFP to solicit bids from interested parties to do these types of projects on lands that we identify as suitable for these projects. So we're working through that process. It's pretty complex first on the procurement side and the legal side. And hopefully for Phase 2, we can get some projects in on Moloka`i. I'm also confident there will be future rounds, so if Phase 2 is not...you know, for whatever reason we're not able to...all the stars don't align to have everything together on time, I do think we will have an opportunity in the future. But certainly, we're going to be, you know, looking at that closely here.

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

MR. REDELL: Chair Sugimura, can I add onto that just as a little bit, if that's okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

MR. REDELL: I just...so...and thank you, Alex, for, you know, continuing on the CBRE mission that I was, you know, trying to push. There are some areas where the County can absolutely help move this forward and help the lower-to-moderate income people. But we're looking at something that's designed to help bills. It doesn't operate the whole grid, it's really about helping a certain segment of people on their bills. So the County providing land with a requirement that the developer target lower-to-moderate income people at a certain fraction, let's call it 100 percent, is it could be a requirement for the concession agreement, a requirement where, let's say, if there was going to be another participant in there, a large scale company or something, then you could sculpt that. You can have one entity in that program paying more, and the lower-to-moderate income people paying less. You can also have the County as a backstop for the financing of those projects. There are so many ways to make CBRE work if you're actually creative enough to say, my target is helping low-to-moderate income people. That's what you have to do. And if you get that focus, you'll actually hit the mark.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Redell. That was actually going to be my follow-up question was --

MR. REDELL: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- if it was contemplated, and it sounds like, Mr. Redell, as the predecessor, it was something that was contemplated prior to Moloka`i reaching out to Mr. de Roode.

MR. REDELL: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good question. Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So I just have a question for Ms. Van Der Lee. You know, your Renewable Energy Workforce Development at the college? So how many students are…have been enrolled or are enrolled in that program?

MS. VAN DER LEE: Thanks for the question, Councilmember. We started in the summer, and we had a course of 22 students. And they have completed their training and now they're in the process of preparing for the NABCEP industry exam. So they have one year to take that exam with the credit that we provided through the program. And then now, for the fall cohort, we have 19 participants registered. We also have 30 participants from O`ahu that will be training as part of that O`ahu back-to-work CARES funding. And then we will offer the course again in the spring with the Native Hawaiian Education Association funding. And we can enroll up to 30 participants in any given cohort.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So when they're gradated in school, where do they go? Where would they go? Where would they be placed?

MS. VAN DER LEE: So we're providing the resume prep, interview prep, and job search. We can help them find a job with a local solar installation company, if they're hiring. So this is really where we need that, you know, relationship with industry as these projects develop. We can train people, and then we'd need to have that, you know, pathway into the local employers. So hypothetically, those jobs would be with the companies that are, you know, awarded installation with these projects. It could also be with, you know, other installations, the community projects that you're talking about as well. So that would be that pipeline opportunity to place them in those jobs.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Wow, that's wonderful. That's absolutely fabulous. Thank you. I just have one more question, Chair, for I think Mr. Seu with HECO if he's still here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Seu.

MR. SEU: Yeah, aloha, Councilmember.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Hi.

MR. SEU: I'm here.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, you know, in a recent *Civil Beat* article, you talked about addressing inequity to these utility scale projects. So could you expand on that,

what you meant by that?

MR. SEU: Yeah. Thank you for that question. You know, my comments that I put in that article, I actually put those comments together because it was the Hawai`i Energy Conference sponsored, you know, here on Maui. And the...of course, the topic was equity, equity as we go forward with designing this new energy system. And my main point was that, you know, our traditional way of thinking about this has been to essentially design everything for the average customer, the generic customer. And what my point was, was that we have to pay attention to the customers who are more in the special needs categories and really, you know, make sure that we're not leaving anybody behind. But when it comes to the comments I had about utility scale projects, and I touched on this real briefly earlier, was that, you know, I made reference to almost, like, the extreme community user as well, where right now, as we have it, right, our RPS State policy is very, very high level. That's at the top. And then of course through that, it leads to a series of actions on how do you actually finally get renewable energy developed. And as I described it, you know, we do have, baked into the system now, opportunities to get public comment and input. But probably where I would like to see it evolve towards is that you actually have more of a front-end process that really spends time at the ground level, out there in the communities, to really understand what the issues are, the concerns, you know. All of you have been in many, many meetings across the communities where you hear it's not only about renewable energy. I mean, everybody will say, yes, decarbonization, sea level rise is important. But at the same time it's also about, you know, job creation and opportunity for my kids.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. SEU: It's also about, you know, developing the agriculture community. So it's not like I, at Hawaiian Electric...I mean, I have to expand my thinking. I shouldn't just be thinking down this silo of 100 percent renewable energy or bust --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. SEU: -- right? So...and I think this discussion is happening in many important locations. Our PUC is talking about this. In the energy planning process, we're bringing in these other considerations. But very importantly, when a community has that ability to participate up front, yes, we all have our own desires for our communities, and maybe it...you're not going to satisfy all of my desires. But at least if I can know that if a project eventually gets placed in my community, that it wasn't there just because there's this top-down State policy that --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MR. SEU: -- has no consideration of what my particular community needs and values. So I...it's an easier said than done. I know all of us would like to wave that magic wand. But yeah, that's really what I was trying to touch on in that *Civil Beat* article. We have to rethink our process here.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Very good. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. SEU: Madam Chair, if I may --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. SEU: -- because I'm not sure if I will get another question. But I would...I was...Mahina Martin asked me, Scott, great, but you forget to mention our hosted meeting tomorrow at 5:30.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, yeah.

MR. SEU: Sharon and Rebecca from our Renewable Development team will be hosting a 5:30 community conversation about bringing more renewable energy to Maui, and information is on our website. We'll have a Facebook, as well as show it on *Akakū*. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for mentioning that.

MR. SEU: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...there's Tamara Paltin and Shane Sinenci. I wasn't sure if you left. Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My question is, a lot of my community are concerned about the size of the solar. They don't think folks are prepared for the hundreds of acres. You know, the one below the "L" in Lahaina kind of popped up without it being on anybody's radar, and a lot of people are unhappy. And, you know, just what Mr. Glenn, I believe, was saying about how hot it's going to get, like this is a cool year for going forward. I just was wondering--and taking into account what Chair Lee was saying, is there a possibility of pursuing parking lot solar, like how Costco did? Because the land is already developed. You don't have to worry so much about, like, the bird poop if we take away the tree requirement for parking lots. And then it's cooler and people, like, you know, maybe kids or dogs don't pass out in the car if they got to wait with the window a little bit cracked. And, you know, then you're not taking up, like, raw land that...tourism is our big scenic industry. Or also places that frequently burn, because it looks like solar panels don't usually catch on fire with all the fire around it. So that was my question.

MR. DE ROODE: Yeah, I think...if I may, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mister...

MR. DE ROODE: I have a couple comments to answer Councilmember Paltin's question. I don't have the full answer for you, but one aspect is going back to what Vice-Chair Lee mentioned previously about, you know, how much should policy or regulation drive

these projects versus letting the market kind of bring the solutions to our community. And I think it is a balance you have to strike there. I wouldn't be comfortable saying that the market should just decide what's, you know, most economically feasible and that should be the way we go. I think we have an opportunity because that we are updating currently our community plans, right, and we just went through the West Maui Community Plan update. We're just about to start on the South Maui update. We have an opportunity, through that process, to identify areas where our community says, these are the areas where we feel comfortable developing renewable energy projects. And this is how we'd like to see them be developed. Because we can race to 2045, 100 percent, and then look back and say, hey, you know, this is kind of a missed opportunity. We could have done this better had we, you know, taken the time or had the processes in place to really shape what that is going to look like. Because you're not...we're entering into these, you know, 20, 25-year agreements. That's a long time to commit to land being used in a certain way. So I think incorporating some really focused process in the community plan updates that helps our communities identify those desirable areas, and also possibly says, hey, we want to see smaller projects, like CBRE, make up a bigger portion of our overall progress to 100 percent. Even if it may come at a slightly higher cost per kilowatt hour because you don't have the economies to scale with those smaller projects that you do with large projects, there are other benefits that we may see, even if it's a slightly higher kilowatt hour cost. For example, not having these huge tracts of land being taken up where communities may not be supportive of it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or to follow up, even like, maybe mixed use on ag land. Like, a big animal people concern was horses without tree shelter. So if you have the solar panels on ag lands, maybe if you could raise them up to provide shade for the cows or the horses. Or even possibly grow the kind of ag that needs shade or something like that. Because how Mr. Glenn was saying, you know, it's just going to get hotter and hotter. And I think in Member King's committee, they said even in the shade, some parts near the equator might be so hot that humans would die even in the shade. So like, with that kind of climate change, shade is almost going to become a valuable commodity. Like in Lahaina, it currently is a kind of a valuable commodity right now. So, you know, when you put the solar panels up on raw land, and it's just kind of an eyesore, it doesn't help our community as much, you know, as like maybe integrating it to provide...like if I go to Costco I always hope for a solar panel parking spot, you know? So...and then, like, this whole parking here, it's like, you know, either I'm going to have to clean off the bird poop from my car, or it's going to be really hot, you know, when I get in, or something like that. So it's like trying to find those kind of win-win situations. There's choke parking lots, more than we need. And then, you know, if we don't need the use for parking lot, it could just be like, you know, farmer's market with shade, which is also nice. Or whatever. Thank you. I guess that wasn't a question, that was a plea.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Yeah. We've all seen the Lahainaluna, all those panels there, yeah. That's Kamehameha Schools, I think, who put it up?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or Bishop Estates or something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Bishop Estates. Shane, are you here?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, yeah. Thank you, Chair. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you for my fellow Members to asking those equity questions. I think, you know, having our most vulnerable community have access to alternative energies is really important at this time. I guess my question would be, since nobody has asked it yet, you know, couple years ago, before I came aboard, we had a waste to energy project. And, you know, the thing that we're not really dealing with is the massive amount of waste that we're generating on the island. And Mr. Seu and Member Paltin had kind of referred to the heat. You know, we're not diverting anything out of our landfills to try and reuse them and recycle them to cut down on additional gas emissions into the environment, as well as some kind of composting where we take our food waste and our green waste and replenish our...and diversify our agriculture sector. So I'm looking at...we're not addressing--when we're looking at these climate changes, and increased temperatures, and sea level rise and trying to get that carbon back into the earth sequestration--where are these projects that we're diverting our waste out of our landfills to put it back into the environment?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Who wants to take that question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Whether it be a reverse gasification, reusing the biproducts from agriculture to, you know...so, I mean, that's what I was interested in. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mister…

MR. GLENN: Maybe --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Glenn, yes.

MR. GLENN: Maybe I could start with a response. Waste energy is certainly something that's been on our radar at the energy office. On O`ahu, we have a waste energy plant that's really helped to address our waste disposal problems. Although it's not a cure-all, but it has certainly given us more room to maneuver, if you will. And I'm aware of a couple companies that are exploring waste to energy in Maui County. I don't want to say anything firmly because to me, they've just been exploratory conversations. But I think there are companies that are interested. And if you haven't heard from them, I'm happy to refer them to you all. I mean, we already have…generally, we say, if you're interested, talk to the Councilmembers of the County where you're interested to think about doing a project. On the diversion and reuse/recycle, you know, these are important steps to take. You know, we try to think about waste...you know, at the energy office, we think about energy efficiency as, right, trying to avoid generating in the first place. And I think that same thinking extends to waste as well, right? We

want to try to eliminate waste where we can, and have a circular economy, right, as you all had passed a resolution toward. One of the constraints that the City and County of Honolulu is under is they have a minimum throughput of waste commitment for the waste to energy plant. And so while that guarantees a certain amount of energy, it also guarantees a certain amount of waste that has to be generated. And so it creates some tension in Honolulu about how to do...how to reduce and avoid waste versus ensure there's enough to feed into the plant and not create financial penalties for the City that taxpayers end up having to cover. So there's a lot to look at in terms of how to structure a waste to energy approach. I think one way would be to keep in top of mind is not to limit your ability to reduce and avoid waste in the first place, if you guys are interested in taking those approaches. And then on the sequestration side, certainly that's important, and gasification is another important look at our future where we certainly have been talking about electrification so far mostly today. We did talk about biofuel and biodiesel to some degree. But right now, the world's biggest problem is how to deal with transportation fuels. It's how to deal with jet fuel and bunker fuel. We know how to make electricity, and we can make electricity a lot of different ways with a lot of different technologies, but waste gasification is one of the few ways that we can make jet fuel and that we can make bunker fuel. And so when you think about waste to energy, what type of energy would you want to make? Electricity is certainly a profitable...and the technology is there, the market's there. And probably at the scale of waste that Maui generates, it's probably there. I bet you there's companies that can probably make it work. But, you know, kind of coming back to some of the other points, like Alex or Fred made, is it worth paying rock bottom price, or are you willing to pay a little more to get additional features and services? So in this case, you know, you might be able to get waste to energy and make electricity, you could also do that with PV or other types of things versus paying a little bit more and having your own jet fuel supply to make sure that your tourism industry and people can't...and you residents can come and go from the islands. That's just kind of theoretical at this point, but something to think about as you start going down the course of waste to energy.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Glenn.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then Mr. de Roode, is there the capacity for Maui County to be looking at creating some kind of composting facility to at least get those food waste out of the landfill? We could use as organic fertilizer.

MR. DE ROODE: Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. Certainly there...I mean, there is that capacity in terms of land availability out there in our County, and regulatory pathways that we can, you know, legally do that type of activity. That would...you know, I haven't pursued that in depth, it's a little bit outside of my energy scope, although there...as Scott was mentioning, there are some, you know, obvious tie-ins. I know that our Department of Environmental Management, Tamara Farnsworth and under Eric Nakagawa, are considering food waste composting as a possibility. So I would look to them to provide more details on, you know, what...where we're at in that

evaluation. Also, to your first question that Scott provided some feedback on, I believe the Council, mostly Councilmembers here have received presentations in the past from waste to energy companies as recently as maybe a year or two ago. And some of those discussions are still ongoing with the Department of Environmental Management. We're at the tail end of the unraveling of the Anaergia contract and figuring out where we go from here. But I know there have been some explorations, as Scott Glenn mentioned, regarding waste to energy pilot projects, both in Hāna as well as at the Central Maui Landfill. And that was…

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That was the potential for pilot projects?

MR. DE ROODE: Correct, yeah. Possibly with no upfront investment needed from the County to kind of a PPA, Power Purchase Agreement type of arrangement. So we are moving ahead with energy savings performance contracting for the County, and we hope that by the end of this calendar year, or early next calendar year, we'll have a request for proposals out for energy services companies to respond to. And part of what they would be responding with could include various types of renewable energy projects, including waste to energy as part of that, again, with no upfront costs being required by the County to get those projects underway. So more to come on that front as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right, great. Mahalo.

MR. REDELL: If I could add to that just one more thing. I mean, that was…it would be…from that perspective, from waste to energy, the County does have that landfill as it . . .*(inaudible)*. . . the one…and with Anaergia there was some of that tied up. With…if that is unraveling, you do have roughly two megawatts of landfill gas that's coming off that landfill that could be, you know, let's say instantly used to power, you know, an engine and provide renewable energy instead of flaring it. So there are lots of opportunities from waste to energy there . . .*(inaudible)*. . ..

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Ms. Lee, did you want to ask another question? I see Alice's…

VICE-CHAIR LEE: No, I'm just enjoying listening to everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So I wonder if Mr. Seu would like to have some closing comments. Oh, Keani, did you have another question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, mahalo, Chair. And it's actually for Mr. Seu. If Mr. Seu…

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Seu, if you can answer the question --

MR. SEU: I'm here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then I'll ask you to give some closing comments.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So I'm really happy to hear about the news about the Kahului Power Plant closing. I was wondering about the plans for remediation of that being a brown field.

MR. SEU: Yeah. Thank you for that question, Councilmember. Yeah, so as a...we will always have to make sure we're complying with all environmental requirements, and that's whether the plant is in operation or not. So that's something that we take very seriously. We actually...in 2024 would be the time that we stop running the plant. But as far as a time frame for actually, you know, shutting it down, demoing it, whatever, I mean, we still have to develop all of those plans and that will go beyond 2024. But in the meantime, we're still on the hook with Department of Health, EPA, as well as the County to make sure we're always…that we're in compliance.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for --

MR. SEU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you know, summarizing what we'll be doing in the future. Because on Moloka`i and Kaunakakai, the Moloka`i energy plant, that never got remediated, and so it's still a brown field that cannot be built upon. So I don't know if there's any plans. I know Department of Health did testing there, and they found that there was significant leaching beyond the site itself. I don't know if you have any information on that.

MR. SEU: I apologize, I'm not up to date on that. I'm aware that it was an ongoing issue, but I apologize, I don't have any current information. A long time ago, I actually used to work in the . . . our environmental department. That was a little bit of a time ago.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahlo, Mr. Seu. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So Mr. Seu, I was hoping you would do closing comments. But before I give you the floor, I just wanted to comment that I see you have a Sig Zane shirt that matches the Sig Zane logos that are on all of the vehicles, that I...he used to have a shop here in Wailuku. So I adore him as an artist, I respect him. And I noticed that you have a…it looks like you have a Sig Zane shirt. Thank you.

MR. SEU: Yeah, I have to confess, this is...I believe it's Manaola.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. SEU: My wife bought it, and it's sort of a...like a polo shirt so it's actually very comfortable.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. SEU: But you should see, I do have a lot more Sig Zane in my closet. My wife really loves him too. And I love him too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, he's really good.

MR. SEU: Yeah. But thank you. As far as closing comments, you know, I just really want to, first and foremost, mahalo all of you for allowing me to be part of the panel. You know, what I see, of course, among all of you is so much passion to try and connect the dots between how do we make this future energy system work for all of our community members; how do we try and be as aggressive as we can, again though, without leaving people behind. You know, so all of the commentary and very heartfelt comments about really focusing on our low-to-moderate income customers is something I also truly believe in. You know, I think that if I think back of the history of where we came from in our renewable energy journal...journey, sorry...initially, it was about getting the renewable kilowatt hours onto the system, right? And it was very much of a technology challenge. How do we get it done? How do we procure? How do we sign the contracts? And then how do we fit those variable renewable kilowatt energy hours into our energy grid? But now, where we are as a community and as a company, is really now we actually have the harder work ahead of us because we're starting to see, you know, all of the so-called easier projects have already been developed. And as we all think about where our communities are with respect to renewable energy, you know, I think, like I said earlier, no one would ever say, you know what, I would prefer oil over renewable energy except when they are faced with very challenging issues of, you know, like here on O`ahu, the Napua Makani Windfarm in Kahuku, right? That community feeling like those wind turbines are very large and very close. And they are. On the other hand, you know, as we think about the very real issues of climate change, and sea level rise, and just the viability of where we will be in the future or our kids will be, that's another reason why we have to keep pressing forward. So I think all of us are doing our best to try and push forward aggressively, but more and more now it is about talking about balance and understanding at a deeper level all the different variables that we are trying to solve for. But in any case, you know, I really am committed. I know Sharon and Mahina and Kuhea and our entire team, we're very committed to not just being the good technical guys, right? We are absolutely committed to bringing that expertise to the table, but at the same time, understanding that we cannot do that in isolation, and so much is all centered on the community. So that's basically what I wanted to get across. So thank you very much. Mahalo again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. That was so important, what you just said because in...for your company and to take that position, I think it probably...it's probably transferred to all your employees and workers. So thank you very much. I think that's important. I will tell you that when I have a complaint from a constituent about a line, I think immediately to call Mahina Martin. And it was actually a telephone line, I didn't know who to call. So I had to call Mahina, and she told me where to call. So thank you very much, Sharon is awesome, you have a really great team, and for all the work you're doing to make us more energy efficient for our energy future for Maui County.

Amazing what you're doing. Appreciate all the speakers, and continue doing what you're doing. Nicolette, I can see why there's all those panels on the grounds at UH Maui college, which used to be our parking lot. But it certainly is, when we went to concerts, that all your panels there is great. Fred Redell, continue on with your journey. My God, you're still high-powered good energy, and looking at life as a community. And Alex, thank you very much for all the information that you...you have to come before the Council more often with what you have...with what you know. So I appreciate that. And Scott Glenn, I was so thrilled that you could be with us because of what you do for the whole State and for you to make the time to share with us what your vision is on how we for Maui County can move forward. So thank you, every one of you are appreciated. And thank you, Members, for staying on. At this time I'm going to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (Excused: KK, RH)

ACTION: **DEFER.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: As things come up in the future we can again talk about it. I love the discussion about waste to energy because that is another huge problem that we have that we need to solve. But thank you very much. At this time, the meeting is adjourned. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

ADJOURN: 4:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Water, Infrastructure, and Transportation Committee

hfc:min:201009

Transcribed by: Susan Leong, Kaliko Reed and Crystal Sakai

CERTIFICATIONS

I, Susan Leong, hereby certify that pages 1 through 9 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 8th day of November 2020, in Wailuku, Hawai`i

Susan Leong

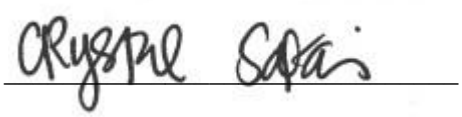
I, Kaliko Reed, hereby certify that pages 10 through 29 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 8th day of November 2020, in Wailuku, Hawai`i

Kaliko Reed

I, Crystal Sakai, hereby certify that pages 30 through 43 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 8th day of November 2020, in Wailuku, Hawai`i



Crystal Sakai