

CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

September 29, 2020

Council Chamber, 8th Floor

CONVENE: 9:04 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Chair
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Riki Hokama
Councilmember Alice Lee
Councilmember Tamara Paltin (in at 9:07 a.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:
Councilmember Tasha Kama

STAFF: Nicole Siegel, Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst
James Forrest, Legislative Attorney
Stacey Vinoray, Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

ADMIN.: Richelle Thompson, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of
the Corporation Counsel
Keola Whittaker, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of
the Corporation Counsel
Michele McLean, Director, Department of Planning
Jordan Hart, Deputy Director, Department of Planning
Herman Andaya, Administrator, Maui Emergency Management Agency

PRESENTERS: Leslee Matthews, Cofounder, Climate Reality Project, Hawaii Chapter
Kaniela Ing, National Climate Justice Campaign Director, People's
Action
Yong Jung Cho, Field Director, Green New Deal Network
Dr. Chip Fletcher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and professor,
Department of Earth Sciences, School of Ocean and Earth Science
and Technology (SOEST), University of Hawai'i at Manoa

OTHERS: Hannah Bernard
Tom Cook
Lucienne de Naie
Nick Drance, TheMauiMiracle.org
Raymond Cabebe
() additional attendees

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

CHAIR KING: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning. It's 9:04 by my computer on September 29, 2020. Welcome to the Climate Action and Resilience Committee meeting. And I'm Kelly King, Chair of the Committee. We also have with us today our Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci. Aloha kakahiaka.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka mai Maui hikina. . . .*(spoke in Hawaiian)*. . .

CHAIR KING: Aloha kakahiaka. We have Chair Alice Lee with...do you have a new greeting for us?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Well, it's...it's an old one, but I haven't used it since last year. So if you're visiting a Saigon Café and you can greet the people there with chao buoi sang. Chao buoi sang.

CHAIR KING: Chao buoi sang.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Vietnamese.

CHAIR KING: Chao buoi sang --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR KING: -- to you too.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you for being here. And we have Member Riki Hokama. Thank you for being here.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR KING: Good morning. Nice to see you this morning. And we have our Vice...our Council Vice-Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Thank you for being here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. And chao buoi sang kakou. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR KING: Aloha kakahiaka. Okay. Members, we have a little more than a bare quorum. We have another Member joining us at 10:00. She couldn't...she had some previous engagement. And Member Kama...that's Tamara Paltin. And then Member Kama is excused for the day. And we have two Members, Mike Molina and Yuki Lei Sugimura, who are welcome to join us at any time, non-voting Members. We also have...well, let's see, I guess I should make my first announcement, which is to silence all cell phones if...for those of you who are on the call. And today we have from the Administration

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Michele McLean, Planning Director. And I'm not sure if Long...Long Range Planning Pam Eaton is going to be on the call. She was invited. We have the Administrator from the Maui Emergency Management Agency, Herman Andaya. Thank you, Director Andaya. We have our Deputy Corporate [sic] Counsel Richelle Thomson. Thank you for being with us again, Richelle. And requested, but we've yet not confirmed, is our Environmental Coordinator Makala...Makale`a Ane from the Mayor's Office of Climate Action Sustainability and Resiliency. And also from that same office, invited but not yet confirmed, was Alex de Roode, the Energy Commissioner. We also have with us today for our presentations, we have Kaniela Ing, who's the National Climate Justice Campaign Director for People's Action. Oh, welcome, Member Tamara Paltin. Thank you for joining us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka mai Old Lahaina Center.

CHAIR KING: Aloha kakahiaka. Thank you for coming on earlier than...I know you originally said you were going to be a little late. Let's see, where was I? Other representatives are Yong Jung Cho, Field Director for the Green New Deal Network. And Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho will be giving a presentation on the THRIVE Agenda. We have with us a familiar face, Leslee Matthews, who is one of the cofounders of the Climate Reality Project, Hawaii Chapter. And she'll be doing...she's a trained leader in the Climate Reality Project. She'll be doing a presentation for us. As well as Dr. Chip Fletcher, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor from the Department of Earth Science at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawaii at Manoa. He's also Vice-Chair of the Honolulu Climate Change Commission. And he'll be joining us after 10:30. He has a class that he's teaching, but he'll be on the second agenda item. As well as Tara Owens, who's our Coastal Processes and Hazard Specialist with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant. She...actually, she may be attending with the Planning Department. We have our Committee Staff with us. Nicole Siegel, Legislative Analyst; Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst. And thank you, ladies, for another great job of contacts and putting the meeting together. And as well as our Committee Secretary, Stacey Vinoray. Stacey, thank you for all the late nights you've been putting in lately. At Council Services, Assistant Clerk Jean Pokipala, and Legislative Attorney James Forrest are also with us. And thank you, folks, for being here and for your...your ongoing support for this and other committees. All right. Let's get started. Members, we have on the agenda today two items. CAR-1(8), An Agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy, the acronym spells THRIVE. And we have CAR-23, Adding Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change Solutions to the Maui County General Plan Objectives. So on the second item, we'll be addressing just part of that in this...today's meeting, just the climate change solutions part. Okay. Let's begin with public testimony if there are no objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR KING: Oral testimony via phone or teleconference will be accepted. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans meeting link that's on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony

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should have participated via phone conference by dialing 1-408-915-6290 and entering meeting code 498 712 703, also noted on today's agenda. Testify...written testimony is highly encouraged by sending your comments to car.committee@mauicounty.us. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony in one minute. Let's see, before I go through the rest of these, let's ask OCS if we have testifiers. Do we have testifiers signed up today? Kasie?

MS, SIEGEL: Chair, there...

CHAIR KING: Or Nicole.

MS. SIEGEL: We do have testifiers signed up today.

CHAIR KING: Okay. I...I...I would...if I didn't, I would skip this. But...so also to be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting. Chat should not be used to provide testimony or chat with other testifiers. If you are here to provide testimony, please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Participants who wish to view the meeting only without providing testimony, please view a live cablecast on *Akaku* Channel 53. And I believe this is working today. You can also visit mauicounty.us/agendas to access live and archived meeting videos. I remind Committee Members, Administration, and the public to please be patient if we run into any technological issues. And Members, I'd like to proceed now with oral testimony. Staff has been monitoring people joining today's meeting by phone and by video. And we'll do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. So let's see, Nicole, do you want to go start with our first testifier?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. SIEGEL: Chair, the first person signed up to testify is Hannah Bernard, to be followed by Tom Cook.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Ms. Bernard?

MS. SIEGEL: You can go ahead and unmute yourself.

MS. BERNARD: Aloha kakahiaka. Good morning, Committee Chair King, Vice-Chair, and Members. Thank you so much for taking my testimony this morning, and for hosting this meeting. I am so grateful to be able to endorse the two items, and...and so appreciative of your introducing these two items on the agenda, 1(8) and 23. Back in 2009...oh, by the way, of course for the record, Hannah Bernard, Executive Director and Cofounder of Hawaii Wildlife Fund. In 2009 we hosted a symposium called More Fish in the Sea that was placed at Maui College. And we invited members from the sustainable agriculture industry and organic farming, the sustainable restaurant industry, and anybody from the public who was interested in helping us. All of us joined together to move toward creating the healthy environment that would lead to

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more fish in the sea, which we all want and...and all of us benefit from, including and especially the environment itself. And so to see these two items on the agenda, first of all, I'm thrilled about the speakers and look forward to their presentation. And...and so happy that you'll be sharing this investing in a vibrant economy because it's what we need to do to move forward in a positive way. And then adding sustainable agriculture and climate change solutions to the Maui County General Plan objectives, crucial to our ability to move forward. For us living on an island, this is absolutely critical. Everything upslope, everything mauka affects everything makai. There is no denying that. We see it in very real time. So thank you for having these items on the agenda and for the proposal to address the County plan with CAR-23 so that we can add that into the County plan. Thank you so much and look forward to seeing the presentations.

CHAIR KING: Mahalo, Ms. Bernard. Any questions for our testifier, Committee Members? Seeing none. Thank you for being here. Appreciate your support.

MS. BERNARD: Mahalo for doing this.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Next testifier?

MS. SIEGEL: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Tom Cook, to be followed by Lucienne de Naie.

CHAIR KING: Oh, Mr. Cook, you're muted. I don't think you're muted on our end. No, we can't hear you. We can see you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe if you log out and log in. Sometimes when you switch the platforms, it...something happens.

CHAIR KING: Okay. We'll go to the next testifier and then we'll take Mr. Cook right after. Okay. Next testifier, Ms. de Naie.

MS. DE NAIE: Aloha. Let me get my microphone here. I'm Lucienne de Naie. And I signed up to testify on Item 23, but I'm really interested in this joint presentation on Item 1 as well. Just thank you, Chair King and the Committee, for being interested in these things that actually the...the public really has on their minds right now. I have to say I'm coordinating a candidates forum for next week for the Haiku Community Association, and we're fielding questions from the public. And we've already gotten four or five questions that had to do with, you know, climate change, rain patterns, you know, different sea level approaches. And so people are thinking about...I guess because the world is so change...changing so much around us right now with...with COVID-19. We're thinking about well, what if these other changes come all of a sudden, and we're not prepared? So I...I think it's great that we're trying to think ahead, get a little bit ahead of the curve. Certainly, as a person who served on the General Plan Advisory Committee and reviewed the Countywide Policy Plan, it is a living document. And I'm really happy to see the Council and Planning Department and others treating it like a living document and looking at ways that it would be

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better fit our times. So really appreciate that this discussion is happening. And, you know, thank you all for putting out this information so that we can learn what our...our options might be. Obviously, we need to have choices or else we just kind of fall into inevitabilities, and we don't want to go there. So mahalo, and look forward to what comes next.

CHAIR KING: Okay, mahalo, Ms. de Naie. Members, if...if Ms. de Naie is willing, is there any objection to asking her to stay on as a resource for the second item if...if you're able to, Lucienne?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR KING: As a member of the original GPAC that helped put all...you know, the Countywide...because it's a...it's a broad discussion. We're not going to make any decisions today, but it would be good to have your input if you're available on how to incorporate this into the Countywide Policy Plan.

MS. DE NAIE: Yeah, sure. And Mr. Cook, I guess, is calling in too, and we were fellow GPACers for those three-and-a-half years, so yeah.

CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. DE NAIE: Thank you.

CHAIR KING: Great. Thank you. Okay. No objections, all right. Thank you. We'll talk to you later. Okay. Mr. Cook is...is...was on, and then he went off. And are you back on, Tom?

MS. SIEGEL: Chair, I don't see him back on yet, but we do have other testifiers signed up.

CHAIR KING: Okay. We'll take the next testifier. And then if he comes back on, just ask him to stay on and we'll take him, you know, whenever he comes back on.

MS. SIEGEL: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is logged in as Nick.

CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. DRANCE: Let's see.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Now we can see and hear you. Aloha. Oh, you just...I think you muted yourself, Nick. You just went silent after the initial aloha.

MR. DRANCE: How's that, good?

CHAIR KING: You got it. There we go.

MR. DRANCE: Okay. All right. Good morning, Chair, Committee Members, presenters. So

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looking forward to hearing what's going to be...what I'm going to learn today from the presenters. I hope that my words of encouragement here will be helpful. I appreciate the effort to re-envision Maui's economy into a new sustainable form. Our current model is not sustainable, and we all know it. We've all been in scenarios where we look back in hindsight and see that we might have recognized something that we chose to overlook at the time. I think this is one of those times. Let's summon the courage to re-envision a new way forward so that in the years ahead, we look back and see that we did the right thing and feel good about it, rather than having a feeling of regret. I think the challenge for us now is to do what we must before it becomes more obvious than it already is. If we wait, the cost to do what we must will be far greater than we can imagine. Now, we all know that the world is going to be different 50 years from now, just as it's so different than it was 50 years ago in 1970. Look at what happened in those 50 years. Look how different things are this year in just five months. Compound that with the fact that in a general sense, the world is changing faster than ever. I have a feeling that the clock is ticking faster than we think. Again, let's do the things we need to do now so that when we're old and we see the world from those old eyes, we look back and feel good about what we did years earlier, right now. Let's do our very best right now. Regarding the Countywide plan, the Focus Maui Nui already established a summary of residents' wishes and what people felt had the greatest value. I believe the first purpose of government is to preserve and protect our way of life in a way that reflects those values. And I don't think we've done the best job we could in recognizing them. Climate change is the elephant in the room. We understand it, but a lot of people don't. We already see the changes around us, but so many things look the same, it's easy to put it out of our minds. I think we all know that. I think all of us want to see Maui as safe and secure as possible in our lifetimes, and perhaps more importantly, in the lifetimes of our children and grandchildren. So I feel...I think we all know that economic and environmental sustainability go hand in hand. Both have massive financial consequences. The money we invest in sustainability today and in the coming years will give us a spectacular return on investment. The cost of not being cognizant of this will cost us far more than we can imagine today. So I hope that Maui County Government recognizes the validity of these points of view and gives them the level of priority that they deserve. And I hope that your Committee and the Council's efforts get all the strength and support from the County and the people possible. Aloha. Mahalo.

CHAIR KING: Aloha. Mahalo. Mahalo, Nick. Any questions for our testifier? Did you mention your...did you say your name and your affiliation at the beginning?

MR. DRANCE: Nick Drance. Themauimiracle.org is the website.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Great. All right.

MR. DRANCE: Thank you.

CHAIR KING: Thank you. Seeing no questions, we'll call the next testifier. Thank you, Nick.

MR. DRANCE: Thank you. Thank you.

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MS. SIEGEL: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is logged in as Keola Whittaker.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Keola Whittaker?

MR. WHITTAKER: Sorry, that must have been an error. I'm a Deputy Corporation Counsel. I'm not here to testify.

CHAIR KING: Oh, okay.

MR. WHITTAKER: My apologies.

CHAIR KING: All right. Well, thank you for being logged on. Next testifier?

MS. SIEGEL: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Raymond Cabebe.

CHAIR KING: Mr. Cabebe, are you on?

MS. SIEGEL: Chair, it looks like they logged off.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Testifier?

MS. SIEGEL: Chair, that was the last person signed up to testify. And I don't see Tom Cook as being back on yet.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Mr. Cook? Going...going...okay. Well, Members, is there any objection to closing testimony?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: ...by cable news.

CHAIR KING: Any...what? What was that?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR KING: Yes, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry. Oh, yeah, mahalo. I...Mr. Cook...is there a way to have the presentation, and if he comes back on take his testimony or...just because we had, like, technical issues. It wasn't because of anything...

CHAIR KING: Well, we have a couple people who were on, but then dropped off.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, he...he actually signed in to testify, right. He was starting to testify. So I don't know if we could take testimony and see if he comes back on and then close before we deliberate.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No objection.

CHAIR KING: We're not...yeah, we're actually...yeah, not taking any...taking any actions today. So we could leave testimony open for he and anybody else who wants to come back on after the presentations. If there's no objections to that.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR KING: Okay. Any...any objections to taking written...admitting written testimony into the record?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR KING: Okay, so ordered. Okay, we'll leave testimony open for Member Rawlins-Fernandez for...until...well, we need to...we need to have...I guess we need to have a time that we're going to end testimony. So what was your proposal, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, after presentations.

CHAIR KING: Okay. That'll be the end of the meeting because we're having...we're having two separate presentations.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. After the first presentation.

CHAIR KING: Okay.

CAR-1(8): AN AGENDA TO TRANSFORM, HEAL, AND RENEW BY INVESTING IN A VIBRANT ECONOMY ("THRIVE") (RULE 7(B))

CHAIR KING: All right, Members, today we'll be reviewing An Agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy. Better known as the THRIVE Agenda as it relates to climate change and protecting the natural environment. That's CAR-1(8). And Staff has...I believe...have you posted the link? Staff, please post the link to the THRIVE Agenda in the chat.

MS. SIEGEL: I'll do that right now, Chair.

CHAIR KING: Great, thank you. That should be posted in the chat. The THRIVE Agenda presents a bold new vision to revive our economy while addressing these interlocking crises of climate change, racial injustice, public health, and economic inequity with a plan to create dignified jobs for millions of unemployed workers, and support a better life for the millions more who remain vulnerable during these tough times. There's...for...for those who probably didn't catch it, I just wanted to say that there's a...there was a press release put out by...by House...U.S. House Representative Ilhan

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Omar just September 10th. So this is a fairly new development, the release of the THRIVE Agenda. And it's actually a collation of grassroots groups, labor unions, black, brown and indigenous leaders from across the country who are hoping to introduce a bold plan for economic renewal. And so this is a...this is a kind of iteration of the Green New Deal. And it's being supported...it's being led also by Senator Markey, Cory A. Booker of New Jersey, Charles Schumer of New York, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Tom Udall of New Mexico, Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, Ron Wyden of Oregon, and Jeff Merkley of Oregon as well, Martin Heinrich in New Mexico, from the House of Representatives. There's a list of about another dozen. But you can see it's getting widespread support at the very top and starting at the grassroots level. So I want to thank our former State House Representative Kaniela Ing, who is now heading up this effort, for contacting me last week and bringing with us the Field Director of the Green New Deal Network, Yong Jung Cho. So we've invited Makale'a Ane. Makale'a, if you're there, could you share yourself, your video? And Alex de Roode of...also of the Mayor's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency. So we could get any comments from them. So if you're there and would like comment after the presentation, we welcome that. Hopefully they'll be joining us later on this...this evening or this after...this morning. Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho will provide us with some background on the THRIVE Agenda. And they'll be available after this presentation to answer questions from Committee Members. So Members, Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho have special expertise in the subject matter before the Committee based on their key roles in climate action and their work relating to the THRIVE Agenda. Therefore, if there are no objections, I would like to designate Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho as resource persons in accordance with Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council. Any objection?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR KING: Okay, great. All right, thank you. All right. So we'll move on to the presentation. Mr. Ing, are you on?

. . .BEGIN PRESENTATION. . .

MR. ING: Hey, everybody. Aloha mai kakou. Nice to see you. Nice to see you, Council. And it's been a while. Khara and I are actually looking to move...to move back, we've been on Oahu for quite a bit. But yeah, we've been doing...since I left office doing a lot of work in the community. Starting the Hawaii Community Bail Fund. We organize counties to hold...you folks very instrumental in this, to hold, like, ExxonMobil accountable to pay their fair share. We worked really hard to stand for the aina and workers in a myriad of other ways too. So now I'm full-time with People's Action. We're a nonprofit that we're actually a network of 42 nonprofits across 30 states across the U.S. doing all sorts of issues. One of them is climate change and how they all kind of interconnect. And just want to make sure that the most impacted folks in our community have a voice. So most importantly, I'm a father of two boys now, Laguna and Halepueo. And I just want to make sure they have the experience of this beautiful place in the same way that we have. And under the current trajectory, that may not happen unless we do the work. So I'm here with Yong Jung Cho, National

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Field Director for the Green New Deal Network. And we're here to talk about an exciting new step toward that sort of goal of the Green New Deal and a movement for worker, climate, and racial justice. So it's a bold new plan. It's called the THRIVE Agenda, and it was just formally introduced in Congress. Just a couple weeks ago it got a lot of press on CBS and political all across the nation, a lot of local press in many of our states. And...and it's...it's kind of supporting the ideals that we all care about here in Hawaii. But before we start, I want to take a moment to acknowledge what's happening in California where my relatives live, many of our relatives live, and all across the West Coast. And what's happening across the nation with the racial uprising, unprecedented floods and hurricanes, and of course, a global pandemic. So there's more than 3.5 million acres now that have burned in California this year. And that fire season is just really getting started. And thousands of homes and businesses have been destroyed or damaged, and lives have been lost as well. Half a million people are...have faced evacuation orders. In Oregon just a couple weeks ago, my Auntie Janice (phonetic), who lives in Northern California since I was like two years old, in just a few years she's seen the way that climate change is making her home less and less livable. She thought she would raise her kids on Maui, but was forced out in economic exile. Now her kids are being smoked out of the only home they have ever known in California in environmental exile. So with the whole West Coast filled with climate refugees, their future is feeling less and less secure. And the air index is actually, like, considered very unhealthy in many of these parts. Technically, the air quality in Portland has literally been the world's worst for the majority of the past month. So you just imagine that, right? Like in the most basic right we can think of as people, the right to clean air and water is unattainable in so many...for so many in the richest nation in the history of the world. So, you know, that's...we're not immune to it. Even though we're here on an island thousands of miles away from those fires, thousands of us here, our family members, our friends, our neighbors are without work due to this global pandemic. The ones who are blessed enough to keep work...working, they face a threat of illness every second they keep our island going. So they're forced to become heroes just to survive. That's just to ground us in...in where we are now. But we can...we can so clearly see the way that, like, climate, race, and class are all connected. Often when we address...like this Committee is on climate change and resilience, so we kind of get siloed into, like, certain...think about issues in certain ways. Like that's about workers, that's about race, that's about climate. But really, it's connected in meaningful ways. Like incarcerated people are fighting fires and trying to make masks for \$1 a day. Many of those happen to be Native Hawaiian and immigrant and Filipino and Micronesian here in Hawaii. People without homes, agriculture workers, they don't have the ability to go inside and protect themselves from hazardous air. In fact, it's not safer at home for many of these people who live next to the most toxic areas and superfund sites in our State. So yeah, it's not equal when it comes to race. It's not equal when it comes to...to gender. When there's 70 percent of the workers or close to 80 percent are...of frontline workers are women. Clearly, we're not somehow immune to, like, America's long history of racial superiority and gender imbalances. So just grounding us there. You know, favorite ma and pa shops shutting down. Our families can't afford rent, some are close to eviction. But while there's so much damage that has been done, we know that we're up against a lot. But in my heart of hearts, I know that these converging

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crises present us with the greatest opportunity that we've had to grab hold and deal with not just our climate emergency, but with the plague of racism and economic equality. And right now, we can mobilize enough people and resources to reverse the apocalyptic pain that we're so...that's so far along. So yeah, the THRIVE Agenda gives me hope because it's a plan that meets the scale of the crisis we're up against. It's a unity platform in this divisive time that brings us all together in this moment when we're seeing more and more people realizing that the things we're doing just isn't cutting it. We're building a new vision for a world in which all people, regardless of race, class, gender, immigration status, age, can do more than just survive, but also thrive. And with that, we're going to dig...dig into a little bit more of what it's about. The THRIVE Agenda was introduced recently in Congress. And more information...I think you've seen the resolution that was posted in...in the chat, but you can also find more information at large on the THRIVE Agenda at thriveagenda.org. And we are a moment...in a moment of like lots of pain and anxiety, but what history shows us is that it's also an opportunity for major change, to take private pain that people are feeling and turn it into public action. And if you as...and I know that you as our leaders can, like, discern and illuminate the hope and positivity of this moment through all the chaos, and that's what's really...it's going to take. And we're going to need a really holistic, broad vision in order to do that. So we will set an example for the world of light to shine through the dark clouds. Shout out to the Pukalani rep, Mike Molina. Not on this call, but yeah, a light shining through the clouds. And the world will follow our lead, just like they've done so many times in the past. I'm going to kick it to Yong Jung Cho to dig a little bit deeper about the what and why around THRIVE.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you so much.

MR. ING: Sorry, we had...we had slides and stuff, but we're like, you know what, we'll just keep this more casual.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Well, this is sort of an introduction to the THRIVE Agenda, so we're not taking action today. But you know, I want...because it's so new, I wanted to get a feel from the Committee how deep we want to go with this and get the...get more details on it. So we really appreciate you being here, Mr. Ing. All right, Ms. Cho?

MS. CHO: Hello, everyone. My name is Yung Jung Cho. I am the National Field Director for the Green New Deal Network. Thank you so much for allowing space for this conversation and for allowing me to appear today. So THRIVE is an acronym, it stands for transform, heal, renew by investing in a vibrant economy. The THRIVE Agenda, as Kaniela had said, is about addressing the overlapping crises, both old crises and new, that we face today. The coronavirus pandemic, economic precarity that existed before the pandemic, but is now exacerbated because of it, white supremacy, and the climate crisis. And you know, like Kaniela said, we're excited about the THRIVE Agenda because it is the holistic solution to the problems that millions of people are facing right now. It breaks the silos that are so prevalent in our politics. And there's broad agreement between racial justice groups, labor, environmental groups, and other grassroots groups on what we need to do to move

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forward to a more just, healthy, and stable economy. We recognize that the response to these crises could shape our society for decades to come, so I think this is a really pivotal moment to make a commitment to the THRIVE Agenda because it can...because it can shape our lives for...for so many decades. So the THRIVE Agenda is built on three truths. The first is that the economic transformation that we need is enormous, and that's because the crisis that we face are systemic. So we need the solutions that match the scale of our problems. So it's not a time for small ideas. The THRIVE Agenda is a big, bold idea. And on climate, that's exactly what we need, right? In 2018 the United Nations...United Nations Panel on Climate Change reported that we have less than ten years to curb climate catastrophe. So now we're, you know, eight years in that...in that sand time thing that I'm forgetting what the name is. And you know, we're...we're also feeling the devastating impacts of the climate crisis today. The second truth is that unlike many politicians, we are not trying to go back to normal. If there's one thing that the wildfires in the west or the uprisings of black lives...for black lives and the pandemic has made clear, it's that normal was fundamentally unjust, unhealthy, and unstable. What normal looks like was native and immigrant communities more likely to breathe polluted air, and therefore, more likely to die from COVID. Normal looks like billionaires raking in over \$580 billion in the first three months of the pandemic, while half of all house...half of all households lost income. Normal looks like increasing climate-related wildfires, storms, and floods that are compounding the threats to our health and economic security, particularly in communities of color. And normal looks like the investments of climate resilience going to the already wealthy. So this is not the time to go back to normal, this is the time for big, bold ideas, and that's what the THRIVE Agenda is. And then the third truth is that it is possible to address the crises of climate change, racial injustice, and public health and mass unemployment all at one time. And the fact of the matter is that we don't have the luxury of tackling them as separate crises either. For example, by tackling the climate crisis, we can create millions of jobs for our future, especially for those who are currently unemployed. In fact, there's a new study that showed that the THRIVE Agenda would create nearly 16 million jobs. And there are currently 14 million people unemployed. So that means that THRIVE would essentially eliminate the unemployment crisis by offering a job to all those who find themselves out of work. So the dichotomy between labor or work and climate is not real, particularly under the THRIVE Agenda. And we can create millions of new jobs for retrofitting buildings, building clean and affordable public transit, replacing lead pipes, expanding manufacturing, growing food sustainably on family farms, and undertaking the largest expansion of wind and solar power in history. You know, another thing that the THRIVE Agenda does is it disentangles the climate crisis from the public health crisis. We know that the same smokestacks and tailpipes that emit greenhouse gases also produce the air pollutants that make more people susceptible to deaths from COVID. And the people who live in those districts and areas are communities of color. So, you know, one way that the THRIVE Agenda is sort of tackling this is by saying at least 40 percent of investments would go to frontline communities, communities of color, those who would be most impacted by the economic transition that is required to address the climate crisis. So that is the THRIVE Agenda in a nutshell. It is the holistic plan to put millions of people back to work in a just economy. And this was briefly described by...the goal of the THRIVE Agenda currently is to get broad support

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amongst organizations and elected officials to sign on to this plan, and that's already happening. So the organizations backing the THRIVE Agenda, there are 260 local, national, and international groups that have backed the agenda, including seven major national labor unions like SEIU, Communications Workers of America, the American Federation of Teachers; racial justice groups like Movement for Black Lives, NAACP, Color of Change; climate groups like Sierra Club, Sunrise, Climate Justice Alliance; immigrant rights groups like United We Dream; economic justice groups like People's Action, Center for Popular Democracy; and faith groups like the Church World Service network; and mainstream think tanks, like the Center for American Progress. So there is already building consensus on this, both on the outside game fronts and inside game. You know we have an all-star multiracial team of Congressional champions. There are 96 cosponsors in the House and in the Senate on this already. So, you know, we're really looking to more local leadership and more local support to put the THRIVE Agenda in action because we know that change really happens from the bottom up. So that's another reason why. So grateful, like I say, to be here today. And I also think a really exciting note is that this, you know, could be the...this could be the direction of the broader Democratic Party, especially with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. One of the main lines that he said was, you know, he said so I make this pledge, if God willing I become majority leader next year, you will be sure that we'll make it a top priority to pass a just economic renewal bill following the principles of THRIVE to confront climate change, economic inequality, and racial justice. So this could be the agenda for the Democratic Party and for the country, really, moving forward. So just for the next couple of minutes I'll just read out the first four pillars of the THRIVE Agenda, which are the...the...the policy platforms of the broad principles. So the first is creating millions of good, safe jobs with access to unions, which include increasing job wage benefits for those caring for children, the elderly, and the sick, so including care work. The second pillar is building the power of workers to fight inequality. That looks like expanding union representation for all workers, particularly women and people of color. The third pillar is investing in black, brown, and indigenous communities. So the THRIVE Agenda calls for 40 percent of investments to go to communities that have been excluded, oppressed, and harmed by unjust practices in job creation, pollution reduction, and climate resilience. And then the...and fourth pillar is strengthening and healing the nation-to-nation relationship with sovereign native nations. So the THRIVE includes the codification of free, prior, and informed consent so that indigenous peoples can determine the outcome of all decision making that affects them. There are four more pillars that I will pass it back to Kaniela for. And thank you in the chat, hourglass is what I was thinking of.

CHAIR KING: I was going to say that, but I didn't want to interrupt you. Thank you, Ms. Cho.

MR. ING: Yeah, that was a lot to digest, but I'll go through the four and then...and then wrap up, and then we can open up to questions.

CHAIR KING: Okay.

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MR. ING: But yeah, pillar five, combating environmental injustice and ensuring healthy lives for all. So everyone deserves clean water, everyone deserves clean air. These aren't controversial ideas, yet if you're brown, poor, native, working class, you've consistently been denied these basic rights, and your communities have been turned into sacrifice zones to like the fossil fuel industry and many other industries as well. Pillar six, averting climate and environmental catastrophe. We only have ten years or so, less than ten years, about eight years to eight and a half to reduce emissions by 40-something percent. So this idea that we can just do incremental changes, that's just not the 2000s anymore. Like we can't cap and trade or carbon tax our way out of this crisis, we need massive investments, we need to transform the economy, and that's what this calls for. Pillar seven, ensuring fairness for workers in the communities affected by economic transition. We know this firsthand on Maui, that when you transition away from certain industries, people are going to lose their jobs. And we can say like hey, there's going to be a just transition, we're going to be able to, you know, train you up on new things, but you got to make that real. It has to be like ready on the get-go, and it can't just be like hey, there's a college program for you, even though you're in your mid-50s, and we're going to retrain you. No, it has to be really clear and obvious. And when you look out...when you walk out the door there's a lot of work that...that needs to be done, right? Trees to be planted, roads to be fixed, so on and so forth. But just the business sector is not meeting that demand right now, so we're creating those jobs within...democratically by investing Federal money into local and state governments like yours. Pillar eight, reinvesting in the public institutions that enable workers and communities to thrive. So that means all these areas that you're like oh, why isn't like public housing working, or why is the education systems broken lots of times. Well, it's because we've, like, systematically divested from them for decades, sometimes generations. And there are models of working...like there are public housing units in Vienna where the rich don't even want to buy private housing because it's more desirable and luxurious to live in public housing. So it's just a matter of investing resources right. And that's...and just kind of focusing on human needs rather than profit just for profit's sake. So that's...that's what it's all about. And...all right, so how is this related to climate, all this race and gender stuff? Why does it matter here? How does this matter for Maui, right, when this is like a Federal thing? How this is going to impact our communities, which is why we're all here. And what are you asking from us, Kaniela? So often when we talk about climate change, it's all about science, right? But what we learned over the last few years is that's not enough. It's the cause and effect of climate change runs so much deeper than just like a few degrees Celsius or polar bears or weatherization projects. And actually, when like Al Gore came to Hawaii, there were not a lot of Hawaiians or people of color that went out to those events because, you know, when you talk about these issues, but people are more worried about like can they pay rent or feed their family or not get shot in the streets or have their, like, native land stolen from them, you got to address those issues first, right, before you're going to talk about environmental stuff. So that's why we got to approach this kind of holistically because if we want to make the change we need, we're going to have to get to the scale where we're all throwing down, not just a select few. So the consensus today is we only have until 2030 to make the drastic change. We know that individual actions do matter like, you know, reducing your plastic use, but it's not enough. The individual

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actions that will really make a difference at this point is to demand change and to be accountable ourselves. And we will never build a movement large enough to win unless, you know, we engage the most amount of folks. And we know that you folks as leaders of our County are balancing a lot right now. So I want to honor everything that you're doing and holding in the midst of all this chaos, and offer you our support in this. So while there's reprieve that our families are enjoying, having the beaches to ourselves for so little tourists, harkening back to the days of fishing in undisturbed waters that only my Grandpa Saito would speak of, but I never seen. We understand that the broad, harrowing impacts of so few visitor arrivals as well. We understand that lockdown means massive decreases in tax revenue for the County. So in many ways, your hands are tied and the hands of all State Government. So it's like, Kaniela, we can't even enact something that's like bold because we don't have the budget is I imagine what some of you folks are thinking right now. So that's why we need Federal intervention. The Federal Government has the ability to direct and leverage funds directly into state and county governments and communities who really need it most. And if you folks are going to really take charge and do what we need, they're going to have to do that too. So even local action, even state action means Federal action in this moment. But we want to make sure that it's not top down, that it's coming from the bottom up, and informed by the people most impacted on the streets in our communities. So that's why we're asking this Committee to draft a resolution and possible legislation to implement some of these programs here in the County to kind of have a vehicle so we can make the case to funnel more Federal funds into this County as well. And we will offer our labor, I will offer my labor and our team to draft pieces of legislation and garner community support for you. That's kind of what we do. And we can be the first County in the nation to show the states and Federal Government what community truly is, right? Just like when we formed an unprecedented alliance between green groups and labor to transition to renewable sources like wind and solar. Just like when we legalized and started growing regenerative crops in our valley. Shout out to Pacific Biodiesel. Just like my Grandpa Halemano, who rose up from the plantation camps to demand worker rights, weekends, and fair pay, who even had to testify on behalf of ILWU during a McCarthy hearing in D.C. We just saw the transcripts, it was unreal. We know how to find light in these dark moments here on Maui, and I see that light in your faces today. And I have faith in all of you as Maui County leaders. So with that, we're going to open it up to Q&A.

. . .END PRESENTATION. . .

CHAIR KING: Wow, that's awesome. Thank you so much for that. And you know, it just...it just brings this ray of hope too. And probably at the beginning of that is when are you moving back to Maui, Kaniela? But I'm going to go ahead and before I take questions from the...the panel, I'm going to...it looks we have Mr. Cook back on. So I'm going to take testimony if we can get him on and see if there's any other testifiers. And then we'll go into Q&A from the Committee and a deeper discussion. Mr. Cook, are you there?

MR. COOK: Hi, I'm here. Aloha. Can you hear me now?

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CHAIR KING: We can hear you now. Aloha.

MR. COOK: Okay, great. Aloha, Council Chair and Councilmembers. And thank you very much for your...your gracious opportunity for me to testify. That was a very eloquent presentation. The...I commend you for bringing to the forefront and the global issues. And for me, basically, bringing it back down to a local level. And the...a lot of the issues that are being addressed are in the Community Plan, the Island Plan. I'm really, really glad that you're bringing this up and I'm hoping...hopeful that the Council will be focusing on the Island Plan, and it's been since 2008. There's a lot of implementation. There's a lot of...well, since we were working on it, a lot of implementation and a lot of items that have really sort of just been left on the side and we need to focus on. As far as self-sufficiency, I...one of the things that I believe that we as community leaders can advocate for our community is basically hope and encouragement. And what I mean by that is we...we have so many youth graduating from high school who are...who are enrolled in school, youth, young adults that are looking for opportunity in our community. And the issues that we've had for the last 20 years about housing and water infrastructure development, we, as community leaders, I think need to become more we...we...instead of me insofar as addressing these issues. There are challenges that need to be overcome. And there are groundwater resources, surface water resources. And...and cultivating an attitude of every conversation is about what's best for the whole population of the community. I'll just leave you with this. And you know, sign waving on the side of the road in the mornings, I see how many people are not working. We need to put our community back to work. And these environmental jobs will provide a lot of opportunities, and in agriculture and tourism being brought back in a managed manner. And building trades, which I've always believed is a good way to make...enable people to be self-reliant. I don't think anybody is ever totally self-sufficient. But I'm glad that you're bringing these issues up. I think that a lot of them are already in the Community Plan, and I'm hopeful that we can continue to address the Island Plan and implement these action items that have been left on the side. So thank you for the opportunity. I'll listen to the presentations now.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Cook. Members, any...no questions? All right, thank you for your testimony. Staff, do we have anybody else who signed up to testify in the meantime? Or anybody else want to open their video and raise your hand?

MS. SIEGEL: If anyone else wishes to testify, please indicate it in the chat or go ahead and unmute yourself and let us know. But we don't have anyone else signed up at this time.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Okay, Members, are there any objections to closing testimony?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

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CHAIR KING: Okay. I don't see any objections. Okay, thank you. All right, I'm going...now at this point I'd like to open the floor to Committee Members for questions from our guest presenters. Thank you again for being here, really appreciate it. Starting with our Vice-Chair...Committee Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And aloha, Kaniela and Ms. Cho, for your presentation this morning. I too feel very hopeful, especially with the...the new THRIVE. So mahalo for...for presenting this today. Kaniela, you mentioned about, you know, pushing legislation and policy through at the...at the next session. So we've been hearing, of course, from the Green New Deal, and we've had of the Aina Aloha also come and present in EACP Committee. So these are kind of similar programs with the same...same values. So are you guys going to be pushing this, the THRIVE from the Senate at...at the Legislature, or you guys will be presenting new policies, new legislation?

MR. ING: That's a...that's a really good question. I think for my role now as a national organizer, the...the one issue is we don't...we don't have like a people's action group in Hawaii yet. There might be one created soon. So like the work I'm doing here is more because like I'm rooted here and this is...you know, and it relates. And if there are people that I need to connect to here to kind of make sure that our stuff are cooperative, our efforts are cooperative and not competing then yeah, that's something that I think would be powerful, especially so, you know, that's what solidarity is all about. Like it's a movement of movements that's going to win this. When it comes to the Legislature, yeah, when it opens up, I think there will be an opportunity to do a resolution at the very least in support of this Federal bill. And I've been in talks with like certain representatives, like the Chair of Judiciary, the chair of the climate committees in the House and Senate like Chris Lee, even the Speaker of the House in moving a green jobs program that's very similar to what we're talking about in THRIVE. Similar to like the Works Progress Administration and the Citizens Conservation Corps back in the original New Deal era. The difference between that New Deal and this New Deal is that this one won't leave out people. Like the other ones left out...like it drew red lines around black and brown communities. It left black folks and women out of unions. This time, not only will we correct those harms, but...I mean not only will we avoid those harms, but actually actively correct and heal the mistakes of the past. So yes, but the reason why we're doing it now on Maui is because we want...we want Maui because I'm from...born and raised on Maui to be like the first County to really lead on this. Because right now it's just the Congress thing. It's super fresh, it's been a couple weeks. And as we build out local support, as groups...local groups are organizing everywhere, we want...we want this to really shine and...and kind of cut through the grass.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Awesome, Kaniela. Looking forward to working with you and welcoming you back home. My next question is for Ms. Cho. You know, we've seen at the department, the State Department of Education, you know, unprecedented virtual learning now. And so when we talk about, you know, the eight pillars of THRIVE including jobs and diversification of the economy, is there a need to...to huli and to

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readdress the...the State Department of Education when we're looking at addressing some of these eight pillars?

CHAIR KING: Who wants to...Ms. Cho, I think that was directed at you.

MS. CHO: Yeah. I can take a crack at it. And then, Kaniela, if you have anything to add, please do. I think on the question of like how do the different departments reflect the principles of the THRIVE Agenda, particularly the State Department, I think was the question.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Of Education, yeah.

MS. CHO: Yeah, the Department of Education.

CHAIR KING: Yeah, specifically Department of Education.

MS. CHO: I think the...so THRIVE right now is a resolution in Congress, and so there aren't specific, as we all know, legislative requirements for THRIVE yet. It's just a...it's a commitment to what the future economy can look like. And so this is the first step. In 2021 there will be legislation that's introduced. But getting broad support so that we are crafting legislation with...with these principles in mind is sort of the...is sort of like...I guess my response there is that there aren't specific requirements yet for every department, but that is something that will happen once it becomes introduced in legislation.

MR. ING: Yeah, we didn't go too deep into, like, the work that has been done. But like Yong Jung and I have held dozens of trainings, like public education training. Some of these calls had thousands of people on at one time. It's...it's, you know, there are drawbacks to the virtual world, there's also some real advantages. So we're able to train up like thousands of people so far. We've been in constant communication with like staffers on the Hill and in state legislative offices across the nation. And there are policy wonks, like some of the best minds in the nation crafting already around 50 pages about like what possible legislation could look like that adhere to these principles. So there's at least like five or six pages about education in particular. And that could be...we could share that sort of stuff with you if...if needed, and if the time is right for...as you develop like recommendations for the State or the County implementation of education policies, or policies in any department.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: All right, awesome. Mahalo. Thank you for that.

CHAIR KING: Mahalo...

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR KING: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Sinenci. So Kaniela, the...the...in that response...because we're different from a lot of the other states...well, we might be the only State that actually has only one State Board of Education. And that...and it

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makes education a State issue, whereas a lot of other jurisdictions it's a county issue, and sometimes even a city issue. So I guess, the...what you're telling us is that there are people that are actually crafting legislation to address these various different issues, and hopefully address what needs to happen at a state level...the Federal level, state level, and county level as well?

MR. ING: Right now it's focused primarily on...on Federal policy, but because of the...the job I'm in where there's 42 orgs that kind of do what I do, organize, do policy, and work with elected and help get folks elected, those orgs are doing like models all across the nation of like jobs programs and other things. So the hope is to take some of the best practices and synthesize them into something that makes sense for our community here in Hawaii. And you know, some things would work, some things just don't, we're unique. And...but I think the hope and the way we're oriented is too many times we see people...like a bunch of wonks on the Hill, elite, you know, Harvard law kind of introduce bills and expect communities to like get excited about it and organize around it. What's unique about this is that this isn't the policy informing the organizing, it's the organizing informing the policy. So we're getting together all these groups, hundreds of groups first, and then introducing policy. So the...yes, it slows things down, you move slow to move fast. Because once...once it's...it's like out there and the elected actually introduces something, it already has this massive amount of support behind it, so you can just kind of be the champion out in front of this crowd with a bunch of flanks. So that's...that's the hope with this. I'm fully aware of the education system we have in Hawaii. It has its...it also its advantages and disadvantages. It's supposed to be more equitable but, you know, political power manifests in ways that go beyond property taxes.

CHAIR KING: Yeah, exactly. Thank you for that. That's...you know, I go...that's goes way back to the '90s for me. Let's see, I'm going to go across the way, I'm...I'm viewing it on my screen, starting with Chair Lee. Do you have any questions or comments?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Thank you, Chair. I was just wondering again, how are you going to pay for all of these ideas and proposals? Certainly we don't have the money, so who has the money? Ms. Cho?

MS. CHO: Kaniela, I can kick it back to you also, as well. But similarly, the legislation, you know, as Kaniela said, there's this broader legislation that outlines how these policies will be implemented. Broadly, it's government investments and making the...the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share.

CHAIR KING: Anything to add, Kaniela?

MR. ING: Yeah, for sure. I mean, this is a question that comes up all the time when it's stuff to help our communities. But when it's war, we spend trillions of dollars in this endless war in Iraq and Afghanistan since I was in seventh...eighth grade now, non-stop. And these are trillions of dollars a year. Like for just a fraction of what it costs to go to war in the Middle East for like a couple years, we could have forgave all student loans across America, right? And that would actually have an effect of

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increasing tax revenue for state and county governments. So I think it's really clear that we can afford thing...we can afford proposals like this. We just passed a \$2 trillion CARES Act a couple months ago. Like when we need to, we do it. So, you know, this...this issue of like how can we afford it, that's how the Federal works is, its monetary policy we can shift funds in...into the community where it can grow, or we can keep it in...in the coffers where it can't. So I think that's...that's a key to understanding just kind of, it's only an excuse when it has to do with actually investing in our communities. But when it has to give...deal with like giving massive giveaways to defense contractors to carry out endless wars, it's...it's...it's not...it's not mentioned. So yes, we can afford it. What we can't afford is climate catastrophe. So any money that we're putting in now, it's going to be...it's going to be change compared to what the damages of climate crisis and economic inequality will cause when my kids are around 50 years old and the entire Kihei is underwater.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, again, I...you know, wishing and hoping is...is something that's not really going to solve any of these problems. We have no control over the Federal Government, over the wealthy. You know, you're talking about County Council that deals with the everyday person who certainly cannot afford to pay for any of these things you're talking about. So it seems to me that you need to persuade the people who have the money, not the people who don't have the money. So that...that was...I'll end it right there. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. ING: I just want to respond to that, saying that's absolute...I'm in 100 percent agreement. And I really want to lift up that comment because it really nails like the orientation of what this is really about. Like I think for too long, they've been blaming the working class, saying like it's us...our fault because we haven't like recycled enough. But in reality, ten corporations control 70 percent of all global greenhouse emissions. So this idea of actually having to shift the...the practices of the rich and powerful is vital, is...it's just vital to this moment. And engaging in folks on the ground that actually deal with their communities. Like our...our network of organizers across the nation, they're...you're absolutely right, like engaging folks on Federal policy, they're like how does this impact me? I'm trying to pay my bills. So when you actually...sometimes it just takes giving them a positive vision of reimagining, like what would Maui look like...what would Iowa look like if there wasn't factory farms. You know, if like kalo farmers didn't have to like pay certain corporations just to use a certain amount of water more than the biggest corporations do. Like just giving them a positive vision, and that's how you translate that private pain into public. And I know like we're trying to do the work here. Like I know it's not just hopes and dreams, like we're trying to do the work. And the fact that Chuck Schumer went up and said that shows that like, yeah, it's working, like we're...we're moving things. And the more people, the better. So you know, I...I agree with you, but it's just I got to keep positive in this, right, because that's the only way we're going to build a world where...that's inhabitable at this point for my children.

CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you. Thank you for that response. Stay positive. All right. Member Hokama, any questions or discussion?

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COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Chair King, for my opportunity. I appreciate those that you have provided us with the presentations this morning. I find it one, educating, and two, Chair, are you going to ask Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho to be able to send to us anything that they have, may have either in a PowerPoint or in the points they've shared with us this morning?

CHAIR KING: Well, Member Hokama, you know, they opted to do this kind of a verbal presentation for this first one. And this...this is more of an introduction to what the THRIVE Agenda is. So we'll have a second discussion where we'll actually be looking at a resolution I'm working on.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay.

CHAIR KING: And then we can look at the PowerPoint details then.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. No, no, I appreciate your response, Chair, because I just like to have something I can, you know, might help --

CHAIR KING: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: -- look at and make my comments. So thank you for your direction. Yeah, Mr. Ing, Ms. Cho, thank you very much for your comments earlier. I'm like Chairman Lee, I have a concern of how and who's going to be paying the bills in the future. I would agree, and I appreciate some of your comments regarding the THRIVE proposal. But one thing I know in my life, election year, especially for presidential choices, you get a lot of presidential wish lists from both sides of the political spectrum. And so I understand the Democratic Congress putting forth this program to compare with the President's economic and environmental program. But you got to know there, Mr. Ing, yeah, that as counties in general, or I can say for my 20 years of experience at national, we've tried to be very nonpartisan. Okay. We don't go up there saying we're Democrats or we're Republicans. Congress looks at the counties as the level of government that just gets the job done. We want to get the potholes filled, the roads paved. We're not so concerned about whether it came from this chairman of a blue state, or this other member from a red state. We don't care about red and blue or purple, we just want to get the job done. So saying that, Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho, I would hope you guys could approach it more from a nonpartisan point of view. I mean, people get very touchy about the political spectrum kind of things. But I think if you talk to them about just common sense, what is good for all of us, not what is good for a party or an individual, but what is good for all of us, I...I think you may get some headway. And right now, I just was hoping, how are you plan to recommend to us because the Island Plan and everything else we do, when you look at the financing and revenue projections is based on the so-called visitor. So now that we know we don't want to go back there, and we want to make a new normal, how...what are your plans to have the resident population understand, if this is what you want, you're going to have to pay for it because nobody else will? So maybe as a resident homeowner, I'm going to need to pay maybe \$3,000, \$5,000 a year for my taxes to get the County I want for...for my future or my family's generational future.

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And maybe people like me are willing to pay, but there may be a great, great, great amount of others who cannot afford to pay. So how do we achieve those goals when people not willing to pay for what they want?

MR. ING: Yeah, I think those are really key questions. I can...I can take a crack at...so I'm hearing a few questions. First was like public information. So I posted a link to the website, there's lots of stuff there. We could provide you like a copy of like the education trainings we've been doing, like a slideshow there. We can send that to your office, Councilmember Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Oh, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Ing. That would be appreciated. Thank you.

MR. ING: Right on. To the point of like can people afford to pay more taxes, yeah, I think there's always going to be a discussion to be had about like what it means to have the lowest property taxes in the nation here in Hawaii. What that means for local people, how that saves us money, but also for investors that want to purchase investment properties, and like whether or not that balance is really worth it. Are there any ways to curtail that sort of thing from happening and give dibs to people like me. Like I'm...I'm desperately want to move home. My mom sold our childhood home just to retire. So we have no like base there anymore. And I...like we're working here in Oahu, this is like where Khara's job is based. And we just like...we don't want to be paying someone else's mortgage for our whole lives, we'd like to be homeowners. But the only thing we can afford are condos right now, and those condos have high HOA fees, in addition to the property taxes and everything else. So it's...it's really out of reach. So when...when you're talking about these issues, it's not theoretical to me, it's...it's our real life, right? And the question is, do we have to raise taxes on these people? We need to also explore why real estate investment trusts don't pay taxes here in Hawaii. Why some of the largest corporations in our State don't pay taxes in Hawaii. How the military owns one-third of our islands tax-free, some of the best beachfront land, and doesn't give much. In fact oftentimes, we're subsidizing them through the State. And is that fair to local people, right? So just this individual mindset of like what we can do, what we can sacrifice for our...for our nation and for our State and for our County, it just doesn't seem to be one that's shared by some of the most rich and powerful among us. So just kind of wakening...proposed like this, kind of like wake that up in people. And that's really what organizing is, is like look, like when my...when like my father passed away, my mom couldn't just work hard and harder, we've seen that, right, we needed government help. And just showing like she should at least get the same help that like Lockheed Martin does. Like I have nothing against like Boeing and like, you know, they provide good jobs. My stepfather was...worked for Boeing. But like that corporation gets more help than local people on Maui, right? So like how do we balance that out? I think that's the key role for local governments. And in terms of the...the last point about like partisanship. This plan...like our members aren't partisan, and they come from the same orientation that I do. Like I was from Kihei, right, that's the most right-leaning district in the State really, in a lot of ways, definitely on Maui. Definitely not like a...like black and brown, Native Hawaiian district. But we realize that if you listen to people, door to door,

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there's no such thing as a red . . . *(inaudible)*. . . pothole . . . *(inaudible)*. . . There's no Republican or Democrat trash pickup. So what the THRIVE Agenda really is, is that stuff. It's investment on that nitty-gritty stuff that don't always make the news on CNN and Fox News, but are vitally important for people's lives and really what they care about when...when they have to make important decisions. Going to keep this legislative here. What would they think about when they have to make important decisions certain times of the year. So yeah, hopefully that answers your question. That is the...that is the intent, is to keep it really nonpartisan. So far more folks from one party have supported than the other, but that's not to mean...that's not to say that the other party won't. The President has...has proposed a really large infrastructure investment proposal too. And you know, just we don't know the details of what that would look like. And we're just hoping that it would adhere to some of these principles, right? That it won't just...that it'll...it'll help all of us, and not just rich white folks to be frank.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank...yeah, I appreciate your comments, Mr. Ing. I appreciate you and Ms. Cho. And yeah, I agree with a lot of your comments that you share. But one thing I...I think we need to be real about, and I think the one area you need to really try and focus regarding this THRIVE proposal that has a lot of good considerations, is not the President. You got to help convince people like Jerome Powell. Yeah. The Fed Chair. The Fed Chair now controls pretty much the global market with their position on borrowing and interest rates. That's the man with the power, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell. Not the President of this United States. That one man. Appointed by the President of the United States. So I would say maybe, you know, if there's ways you can get those Federal Reserve members to maybe see some of the points you're trying impress upon us, could assist them in some of their future policy adjustments on fiscal management. So I just share that because that's my concern right now on value and who's going to be paying the bills is what this man does on interest rates very shortly. So thank you very much, Mr. Ing. Thank you, Chair King.

CHAIR KING: Thank you, Councilmember Hokama, for those comments. And the discussion will continue, and we'll get kind of more into the meat of it, I think, the next time. Moving on to Council Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Questions and discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho, for your presentations. Oh, I think one of our Staff is perhaps not muted. I think that sounds like typing.

CHAIR KING: Oh, yeah. Somebody...can somebody mute themselves if they're in office?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, so...and then mahalo for sharing with us about this resolution. I...I agree with all of your comments and...and support this effort. I agree with Mr. Ing's comments to Member Hokama in how we would fund this. And I think it's important to, you know, acknowledge the reason that, you know, the Green New Deal was called the Green New Deal is because the U.S. has done this type of infrastructure job creating work in the past not too long ago. And so it's not

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like we don't have a history of this happening before. And so I think with THRIVE, and in taking the approach of mobilizing grassroots, so having...educating the people, the communities first and then having the communities, the people demand this from their elected officials is...is truly the democracy, that is what we...what we strive for. And so I...there's so many questions, but I'll try to start with two first and then...and then if there's more time I can ask more questions. But I think for this resolution we're considering, would you speak more to what it would look like?

CHAIR KING: Mr. Ing?

MR. ING: Yeah. I think we could incorporate like the principles that are more like locally rooted in our values as a County, in like Native Hawaiian values, in things that really drive us here locally, but still kind of, you know, relate. It doesn't have to be like word-for-word language. I think it's a...it's a good start. We could ask, as Councilmember Hokama suggested, that not just the fiscal policy side, but the monetary policy side. We can send copies to the Fed. We can send...we can urge...we can just express support to the Federal legislation. We can urge our members of our Congressional delegation. It looks like Mazie Hirono is looking and signing on sometime soon. We can urge them to do so. We could create some kind of, you know, group to decide who...how this sort of thing could be implemented locally. Whether...like and how much Federal funds would be needed. That way we can make a stronger case of...of...of...as I think Chair Lee was saying, you know, the money is going to have to come from somewhere. And Councilmember Hokama talked about not having said like...or whether we would have to raise taxes on folks here. If we could get investment from the Federal Government into Maui, maybe we won't have to. So we can kind of just make the case about how that can...how we could use extra funds too, to carry out something like this. So in terms of like the actual language, we can work with any of your offices in...in crafting that.

CHAIR KING: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . And we are...we'll be working with him, but happy to bring you in, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, if you'd like to be involved in that and helping to craft that resolution as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. And I guess for my second question, I...I was hoping you could share a little bit more about...so in your presentation, you touched upon the Vienna model of public housing. I'm not sure if you would want to go a little more in detail of what that would look like here for Maui County?

MR. ING: Sure. That's not necessarily in the THRIVE resolution of like guarantee housing for folks, but it could be. Because what...so what the THRIVE...I should...I should preface with this, what the...the Green New Deal is not THRIVE, and THRIVE is not the Green New Deal. They adhere to some of the same principles. But like Chuck Schumer, for example, did not sign on to the original Green New Deal for various reasons, but he did sign on to THRIVE. In fact, he's one of the champions on it. So it's like a priority for some of the leadership on the Hill. And it actually goes farther than the original Green New Deal. So the Green New Deal is like a...it's like a

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framework for legislation for the next ten years or so. It's not actual legislation. What THRIVE is, is like it could be considered the first step of that ten-year plan, but it's tailored to meet the moment that we're in now with this global pandemic and mass unemployment. So that's...that's the key differences. But it's...it's also...doesn't have any clear legislation. It's kind of up to interpretation. And as members of Congress or state and local governments introduce things, this massive consortium of...of organizations can be like...can have a scorecard. Like yeah, that's fully THRIVE or like, you know, that could use some work or like absolutely not, don't try to say that's what we...what we're pushing for. So that's...that's what it's about. In terms of the Vienna housing model, it's essentially like rentals for everyone. And so like very few folks own homes in...in Vienna, but it's desirable because it's such a low proportion of like your monthly income. And so you basically pay like 10 to 15 percent of what you earn, and you enjoy like a three to four-bedroom home. And there are like options if you make more. There's still opportunities for private ownership, but a lot of people just opt out because it makes more financial sense to invest in like money markets or, you know, ETFs instead if you have those sorts of funds. There's another...like the Singapore model is a little bit different, and that's what folks are looking at on Oahu and elsewhere, where you actually have a set aside like I think it's one-fourth of your income or 20 percent of your income as a child or like in your first 25 years of life, and including some from your parents. And then as soon as you hit like that age of like 25, then you're basically given a three-bedroom apartment. And you can like sell it, and it's like yours to keep. And there's like a proposal on Oahu right now that's similar to that, but it's more like...it's more opt in and opt out. It's just like the government buys and sells properties or develops and sells properties at cost, so there's no profit motive inside, so it keeps costs way down. And then once like folks obtain it, they can...they can make a profit down the line if they're a local resident and they lived in for a certain amount of years. So those are the two like public housing proposals that actually completely eliminated homelessness in those communities.

CHAIR KING: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Ing. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Mahalo. Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, for that...those questions. And then we'll move on to Councilmember Paltin. Questions and discussion. You have the floor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho. I just wanted to clarify like this is kind of based off of the Green New Deal, and are we looking at why that didn't go through? Like it is it because you think that it was just Van Jones and not from the community up that it failed, or is it...are...I mean because, you know, if we want it to go ahead, we should learn from the reasons why similar things in the past didn't come to fruition?

MR. ING: That's a really good question. I can...Yong Jung might be able to elaborate here, but I can kick it off. Like the Sunrise...so in 2018, a group of folks ran for office with like the Justice Democrats, myself included. And we were really aggressive with

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that...like a climate proposal that isn't...like it's not going to pit workers against environmentalists, that's going to actually create jobs and like reframe the whole way it's...it's talked about. And we came out with like the Green New Deal. Now, this is something that's been talked about, as you said, since like Van Jones in 2008, but it wasn't...like it was a little bit different. So this is...this was the closest thing that looked like the Green New Deal today. Then the Sunrise movement, who actually someone, Evan, our friend Evan who's here right now, we're going to go on a hike probably after this at some point, he helped...cofounded. From...he's a local boy. And...and that movement like got behind a lot of these candidates. And once a few folks got elected, they were like championing this...this bill or this resolution in Congress. So...so that's the history. I think once that happened, there were like a new organization of mostly young folks and a lot of the organizers that been doing climate/environmental work for a long time were like whoa, where are these guys coming from? Like how are this...where is this proposal? I think it was a little bit...it was a false start in some ways. I mean, it grew. Like the Sunrise movement now has 300 hubs across the U.S. It started off as this little thing, and now it's just massive. You know, it's like hundreds of staff, like millions of dollars. And so blew it up, but yeah, I think it just didn't have the support that it needed from the ground up when it...when it happened. So when Fox News and like other media organizations got ahold of it they kind of distorted it, made it about like cow farts and other things that it wasn't about. So...

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

MR. ING: Yeah, so some folks that watch that kind of news, they're really confused about it. So I think this time we're much more intentional of like right from the start...this is an unprecedented coalition like I haven't seen. You have big green groups like Greenpeace and Sierra Club. You also have groups like Sunrise that are in supporting it, but also Indigenous Environmental Network, SEIU, like labor unions, you know, America Federation for Teachers, and just a litany of like local organizations, and just individuals who aren't part of organizations that are behind it. So we want to do that work first before anything got introduced, rather than the other way around. So that's the key difference.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the other thing I'm kind of...I mean, for me personally, I...I...I was a union steward, HGEA and all that, but when you put in the unions, there's some unions that push up their members, and then there's other unions that do the opposite. Like is there a way to distinguish between the unions that are lifting up the voices of their members, whereas the ones that are say, like, you know, leading them around and using their membership to further a few people's objectives?

MR. ING: Yeah, that's a...that's a really apt question too. I think there's like a...there's a tendency...very few unions still organize. And by organize, I mean like bringing new workers into their union, organizing workplaces of like people who don't have unions and probably should, like Walmart workers, for example, who are continually exploited. Very few unions still do that work. In Hawaii, it's basically UNITE HERE, sometimes IBEW. But most unions, they're like focused on just protecting like, you

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know, grievances, and like their contracts year to year, and that's a lot of work. So...but the thing about union leader...membership is when we're talking about 70 percent of people want to take aggressive action on climate change, that doesn't just mean 70 percent of the public, that also means 70 percent of union members within any particular union. When we're talking about 70 percent or 82 percent of people in Hawaii that support unions, and like want more public jobs...not just within the unions either, that's among environmentalists. So there's a lot of unity when you like step out and see people as people and not just what organization they're affiliated with.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Last question, any thoughts as to how the Jones Act and this would integrate?

MR. ING: No, but I'm happy to entertain any suggestions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thanks. I'll think on it too, then.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you, Member Paltin. We can...we can definitely talk about that when we continue this discussion. So Members, I'm...I'd like to, if there's no objections defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: TK)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR KING: And appreciate everybody's comments and questions, and of course, our presenters. It gives us a little more background on to where we should go with a resolution to support the THRIVE Agenda. And we'll be working...going forward working directly with Kaniela Ing and Ms. Cho on that. And any input from any Committee Members is, of course, always welcome. Anything...any last words, Mr. Ing or Ms. Cho? Well, we're going to...we're...we're expecting to have you back too.

MR. ING: I just want to extend my...my utmost gratitude and mahalo to everyone. It's just nice seeing some familiar faces and feeling at home for a little bit, even if it's not in the same room, in the same Zoom...or BlueJeans, sorry. . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MS. CHO: Yes. Just wanting to also echo my gratitude. I think the...one thing that's been standing out in all the questions that have been sort of asked is, you know, where is the community support, what are you doing to make sure that this is actually being supported by the grassroots. And so, you know, as leaders, I...I'm just for grateful for that and for that perspective. And I also wanted to share that one of the studies that also were released...was released alongside the resolution was a public opinion survey about whether the THRIVE Agenda is popular, and if...if it is supported. And the majority of people who were polled on the different aspects of the THRIVE Agenda supported it. So, you know, just want to share that I think, as Kaniela was saying, that it's supported by 70 percent. The different components are...have different percentages, but it is supported by the majority of people. And I think working people,

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you know, as...as Councilman Hokama was saying it's, you know, it's not a left/right issue, but it's really about an issue for the people. And I think the THRIVE Agenda is something that a lot of working people really resonate with. So again, thank you all so much.

CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you. Mr. Hokama, did you have one last question or comment?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. I appreciate that, Chair. Very quickly, my last comment is I think...to Mr. Ing and Ms. Cho, we ask that you take a look at Lanai. We went, you know, in a...in one-and-a-half lifetimes for me, you know, went from ranching under the Gay family, went to pineapple, and then we transitioned out to tourism and land development, and then now we're looking back at agricultural again. My...my comment is this, yeah, when we...the decision was to leave pineapple and to move forward, we kind of pretty much had a timetable set by the...by the corporate decision makers and the corporate landowner where the community had time working with the late Senator Inouye to do job training and adjustments for...for economic driver changes within a short time. I...I just share that because I think one of the things that you may need to do for...help our community is to have a sense of timing. You know, if somebody says oh, yeah, I support it, but in my mind it's going to happen 30 years from now instead of three years from now, I'm going to respond differently to your proposal. So I would ask that you think about that time component, please, as you prepare, and some of the generational values. Okay. My grandparents worked ag, my parents didn't want me to work ag at all, that would be a failure for them if I went back to pineapple. So my thing was to do a white collar career.

MR. ING: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: So that was my educational thrust and values. Now we asking to go back to the land, and go back to ag again. I don't know if I could be a successful ag person because that was not my training, nor my desire, or anything that was fed to me that was something I should achieve for. So I just share that you need to take into account some of those generational differences of value and priorities as well. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you.

MR. ING: I just want to say that's...that's super deep. Thank you. Thank you for mentioning that. I...I did pineapples, I don't want my kids to, I get that. I get that. Yong Jung is supposed to be a doctor...

CHAIR KING: And then some of us are...some of us are actually going back to the land in our 60s ,so there's...there's...it takes all kinds, right?

MR. ING: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR KING: So anyway, without...if there's no objections, I'll go ahead and defer this item, Members.

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR KING: Okay, great. Thank our...our guests. And I look forward to working with you. Yes, we all want Maui to be an example for the world, and we think we can be. Okay. Members, I'd like to take a five-minute break and come back at 10:45, and then we'll be ready with our next two presentations. There's...there's no pressing issues for a longer break? Is that okay?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: No objection.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No objection.

CHAIR KING: Okay. The meeting...if I could find the fake gavel here. The meeting is now recessed till 10:45. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:40 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:49 a.m.

CHAIR KING: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay, Members, we're still on September 29, 2020, at the Climate Action and Resilience Committee meeting, reconvening after the morning session. And we are now on . . . *(inaudible)*. . . In attendance so far we have Member Hokama, Member Paltin, Member Sinenci, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

CAR-23: ADDING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS TO THE MAUI COUNTY GENERAL PLAN OBJECTIVES (MISC)

CHAIR KING: We're...we're now going into our second item...second and final item. Today we have before us a Miscellaneous Communication dated July 13, 2020, from the County Clerk, reporting that on July 10, 2020, the Council referred the matter relating to adding sustainable agriculture and climate change solutions to the Maui County General Plan objectives. We also have before us correspondence dated September 22, 2020, which I submitted, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "REFERRING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION A PROPOSED BILL AMENDING SECTION 2.80B, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO ADD 'MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE AND WORK TOWARDS RESILIENCE' AS A GOAL OF THE COUNTYWIDE POLICY PLAN." The purpose of the proposed resolution is to refer to the Maui, Molokai, and Lanai Planning Commissions a proposed bill entitled, "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.80B, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO ADD 'MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE AND WORK TOWARDS RESILIENCE' AS A GOAL OF THE COUNTYWIDE POLICY PLAN. " The purpose of the proposed bills is to incorporate the amended Section IV by adding "Mitigate Climate Change and Work Towards Resilience" as a goal. We're focusing on climate change today, and hope to add sustainable agriculture as a goal at a later date or possibly work with Councilmember Sinenci's Environmental, Agriculture, and Cultural Preservation Committee on moving the

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sustainable agriculture proposal forward. Although there are climate change policies noted throughout the Countywide Policy Plan, it is essential to focus on and highlight the importance of minimizing the causes and negative effects of climate change. Members, we have with us today Leslee Matthews, a cofounder of the Climate Reality Project Hawaii Chapter, to give us a brief presentation on climate change and why it's important to be highlighted on the Countywide Policy Plan. Ms. Matthews, as you recall was a...formerly a Legislative Analyst and then an attorney with our Office of Council Services. And she did, while in our employ, attend the Climate Reality Project training, and so she has the skill. She's been...I guess her new title is leader. The leaders are the folks in the Climate Reality Project who have actually gone through the training session. And then after her presentation, Dr. Chip Fletcher will be joining us today to give us a brief presentation, his comments and answers...and answer any questions from fellow Committee Members. We will upload his presentation to Granicus. I think it might be on there already if you refresh your...your pad...your iPad. Mr. Fletcher...Dr. Fletcher is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Department of Earth Sciences at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, SOEST, University of Hawaii at Manoa, and he's also the Vice-Chair of the Honolulu Climate Change Commission. Ms. Tara Owens, a Coastal Processes and Hazard Specialist with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant program, works closely with our Planning Department and is here today to provide the Committee with some comments on the proposed legislation. We also, as you recall, have asked one of the GPAC members, Lucienne de Naie, who was an earlier testifier to standby with any comments as well. From County departments we have invited, but have not been...got confirmed, Makale`a Ane, Environmental Coordinator, and Alex de Roode, Energy Commissioner from the Mayor's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency. Michele McLean our Planning Director; possibly Pam Eaton, Administrator of the Long Range Planning Division of our Planning Department; Herman Andaya, Director of the Maui Emergency Management Agency is also here for any comments they may have on this matter. So we'll...we'll go through the presentations, take comments from our Departments, and then open up for questions. Based on the presentations and discussion from our experts, I would like to see how Councilmembers can further to protect our environment with the proposed legislation to amend Section IV of the Countywide Policy Plan. We won't be taking any legislative action today. I think this a pretty big bold move, and I wanted to preface it with these presentations and get any comments and discussion from Committee Members before we move forward to...to press the legislation. And we've got our...our presenters' expertise, explain. So if there are no objections, I would like to designate all of our presenters today as resource persons in accordance with Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you, Members. All right, we'll start with our first presenter Leslee Matthews. Take it away. Leslee Matthews, Esquire is it?

. . .BEGIN PRESENTATIONS. . .

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MS. MATTHEWS: Yeah. Good morning, everyone. And thank you for having me speak on this important topic. Thank you, Council Chair King for this opportunity...or Committee Chair King for this opportunity. I just wanted to start with rooting this in indigeneity. One of the people that I have learned from is Kapua Sproat, which...who is a professor of law at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. And she wrote a paper, and one of the things that she talks about is that climate change's impacts on Hawaii's environment will likely exacerbate already significant challenges to Kanaka Maoli culture, identity, social welfare, and self-determination efforts. Because an indigenous culture is inextricably bound to Hawaii's natural environment, place-based practices cannot continue without the resources to support them. These cultural practices are vital to connect contemporary Kanaka Maoli with their...with their ancestors. They are also crucial pieces of a reborn and thriving indigenous community. In the face of global climate change and in the spirit of indigenous self-determination, many Kanaka Maoli continue to live, grow...and grow in the native culture, which requires access to resources that are to support traditional subsistence, cultural, and religious practices. So thank you so much for bringing this to the forefront and having this to be a part...proposing that this be a part of our Countywide Policy Plan. And it is very important, and so I just wanted to make sure that I root this in the aina where we are. So I am a Climate Reality leader, helped cofound the Climate Reality Chapter...Hawaii Chapter. And I want to share my screen. I'm going to go through a very brief overview. One of our testifiers said that many of what we're discussing may be not new to some of us, but new to some...other people. So I just wanted to go through a quick presentation on the climate crisis and ways that we can help combat this. So I just want to be sure you can see my screen, right?

CHAIR KING: Yeah, we can see it. And just to let folks know, we also have Member Lee with us, and we have Jordan Hart, who's the Deputy Director of Planning, who has joined the call as well. All right, take it away, Ms. Matthews.

MS. MATTHEWS: Okay, thank you. So this is the first picture of earth fully illuminated that any of us ever saw. It was taken on the last of the Apollo missions, and it changed the way that humanity thought about our common home. It reminds us that we are all connected, and that our actions have an impact on the planet. So there's three questions that we're asking. Must we change? Can we change? And will we change? The first question, must we change? The scientific community all around the world has long been telling us that yes, we must change, and now Mother Nature is telling us the same thing. The sky is not a vast and limitless expanse the way it appears to us as we stand on the ground and look up. In reality, there's just a thin shell of atmosphere surrounding the planet. We are putting about 152 million tons of manmade global warming pollution into the atmosphere every day. That pollution, especially carbon dioxide, is building up and trapping heat. Here is the basic science of global warming. There has...that this has been understood by . . .(audio interference). . . 1800s. Energy from the sun comes from [sic] the earth in the form of light. That energy is absorbed by the earth and warms it. Some of the energy is re-radiated from the earth in the form of heat, and some of that outgoing heat is trapped by the atmosphere, which is a good thing. It has kept our planet at a stable

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temperature. Now, however, we have a thick...we have been thickening the atmosphere by filling it with heat-trapping pollution. More heat energy is trapped, and it is warming our planet at an unprecedented rate. There are many sources of human caused global warming pollution; agriculture practices, forest burning, transportation, and many other factors. But the main source and cause of the rise in global temperatures we are seeing today is the burning of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels still provide more than 80 percent of the world's energy. Fossil fuel use and emissions have gone up dramatically since World War II. In the last few years, there have been...there was a leveling off as the world adopted more and more clean energy solutions until another recent spike in the global warming pollution. So as a result of this pollution being trapped in the atmosphere, global temperatures have risen dramatically. Nineteen of the...of the...19 of the 20 hottest years ever measured with instruments have occurred since 2001. The hottest of these years was 2016. Heat itself is a problem in many parts of the world and many parts of this country. Heat affects not only humans, but animals, crops, and our weather. On a global basis, more than 90 percent of all heat energy is trapped by our atmosphere is going into our oceans. This makes ocean-based storms like hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones stronger and more destructive. Half of the increase in global ocean heat content has occurred in the last 20 years. Hurricane Florence produced record-breaking rainfall across portions of North and South Carolina when it made landfill on the morning of September 14, 2018 near Wrights [sic] Beach, North Carolina. The extra heat also disrupts the cycle...the water cycle. So the amount of water vapor that evaporates off of the oceans increases as the oceans warm. That water vapor is carried over the land, and often falls in much bigger precipitation events. When the land can't absorb all the water that falls in these larger storms and downpours, we see floods and mudslides. Extreme precipitation events that have produced more rain and become more common since the 1950s in many regions around the world. Extreme precipitation events lead to record flooding, which has been occurring all over the world. Sometimes people wonder how global warming can be blamed for causing more precipitation and flooding, and at the same time, more drought. The extra heat is trapped by rising levels of greenhouse gases actually lead to both. And as both...as the climate changes, precipitation patterns also change, leaving some places with less rainfall than ever before. Changing precipitation patterns can lead to drought and water shortages, such as in Southern Brazil, which suffered a devastating drought in 2015 and 2016. Higher temperatures have...also have a direct effect on the...on the severity of wildfires. Here we see a number of large fires corresponding closely to the years with higher than average spring and summer temperatures. Today the fire season in the United...Western United States is more than 100 days longer than it was in the 1970s. In 2016, the fire and the heat of...in the heart of the Canadian Tar Sands region destroyed large parts of the city in Fort McMurray, Alberta, and forced the evacuation of over 100,000 people. The number of climate related extreme weather events has been going up worldwide according to the insurance industry. The last two years ranked among the top ten most expensive for all disaster losses, with over \$160 billion in losses in 2018 and 140 billion in 2019. And this is the first...this first picture that I'm showing you is of a glacier of Southwest Greenland, which was shot in the summer of 1935 and shows glacier ice covering the walls. The second photo is the same glacier which has almost completely melted by 2013, not even a

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century later, due to rising temperatures. NASA has...has precisely measured the decline of ice in both Greenland and Antarctica. All of this melting is rising sea levels worldwide, which we understand sea level rise here living in an island community. This flooding occurred in Miami Beach, Florida on a sunny day with no rain. High tides now regularly flood the streets of Miami Beach, as well as several other coastal cities around the world. This situation has only gotten worse as sea levels continue to rise. And this is a slide of the top ten...Miami is one of the cities at risk in terms of assets at risk, along with other places throughout the world. So as we're talking about, you know, funding and things like this, we do have a great deal of assets that are at risk, and we're spending billions and billions of dollars. Looking at cities at risk by population, we see that many huge cities in developing countries are very much in danger. If parts of these cities become uninhabitable, where will people go? The Department of Defense in the United States has long warned about refugee crisis connected to climate crisis, as well as pandemic diseases, water shortages, and food shortages. Heat stress is now beginning to decrease crop yields from rice, corn, and soybeans. Exposure to higher levels of carbon dioxide also decreases nutrient content in many of the staples, such as rice, soy, and wheat. Infectious diseases, heat stress, air pollution, and water-borne diseases are all influenced by a changing climate, and it's not in our favor. Warmer temperatures have an impact of the...on the spread of tropical diseases. Modern transportation and air travel play a part, but the potential range for many diseases expands as regions farther and farther poleward get warmer. This means that there's more and more places where disease like Zika can take root. The main mosquito that spreads Zika and dengue and yellow fever is now covering a wider range in warmer and wetter world. In warmer temperatures, the virus incubates faster, and mosquitos bred more, and are able to transmit the disease for longer. The health impacts of the climate crisis are often overlooked, but affect millions of people. Climate change, along with other factors, such as ecosystem loss, contribute to the worst extinction event since extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. All of these threats, including many that we haven't even covered here, and the fact that World Economic Forum says climate change is the number one threat to the global economy, help us answer the question, must we change? So do we have to change? Yes. But what the second question is can we change, and the answer is very exciting and positive. And now we can get to some happy solutions. For example, look at...if we look at renewable energy, wind energy was predicted to provide 30 gigawatts of electricity by...worldwide by 2010. As of 2019, we have exceeded that prediction by 22 times over. The growth in wind energy being built around the world is at an exponential curve. Wind energy could supply 40 times more electricity than the entire world currently...currently uses. Solar energy is an even more dramatic story. Eighteen years ago, the best prediction was that we would install one gigawatt of solar energy capacity per year by 2010. By 2010, we had exceeded that goal by 17 times. In 2019, we exceeded that goal by 121 times. Even more dramatically than wind, we see exponential growth around the amount of solar energy being installed around the world. Just as we've seen with other technologies such as computer chips, cell phones . . . *(audio interference)* . . . In some regions, solar energy is less than half the cost of electricity from burning coal. In many countries where there is no universal electricity grid, we are seeing customers and businesses leapfrog old technologies and install solar panels in places that have long been denied access to electricity. In Chile, they

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have been able to...the country's solar market took off slowly, but at the end of 2018, Chile had 2.3 gigawatts of installed solar. And there are many other regions around the world where this type of development and growth are possible. Every hour, the earth gets more energy from the sun than we need to run the entire global economy for a year. If we can increase the fraction of this energy that we harvest and use, we can make a lot of progress towards solving the climate crisis, and helping local economies at the same time. Within the next eight years, highly efficient LED lights are predicted to virtually take over the market. Energy efficient technologies like LEDs save people money and help to reduce emissions by cutting down the amount of electricity that we use. This is just some of the manufacturers that either now or are preparing to offer electric vehicles. So can we change? Yes. And so our final question that we're asking is, will we change? And there's exciting news for that as well. In December of 2015, the Paris climate negotiations, every nation in the world agreed to phase down greenhouse gas pollution. And I'm very thankful that this Council also took part in standing with the Paris Climate Agreement. So we're seeing marches and demonstrations and demands at the ballot box for changes necessary to solve this crisis. And so I really thank you, Council, for the opportunity to present to you. And I'm happy to share that at our latest...since we've gone global, as Kaniela Ing shared, it has its upsides and downsides. The upside is we were able to train 10,000 more Climate Reality leaders. I was able to meet with 20 of those leaders. And then another leader from Oahu also met with another 20. So we've had 40 trained leaders in our communities right here. Many are from Maui, all across Hawaii, and it's a really exciting time. I also pooled information. You know, we are looking at warmer and drier conditions projected for the future, that will mean that freshwater supplies will decrease, rising sea levels, rising temperatures, and changing patterns. But forums like this where decision makers like yourselves can come together and do important things like making this part of our Countywide Policy Plan. Additionally, another resource that I really love and I can share this with you all is the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit, which is on toolkit.climate.gov, where it shows, you know, some tools that...to explore the hazards, assess vulnerability and risk, investigate options, prioritize and plan and take action. So thank you very much for doing the difficult work of taking action, and thank you for allowing me this time.

CHAIR KING: Thank you so much, Ms. Matthews. And I see that Nicole has put your presentation in the chat box, so there's a link to it in the chat box for anybody who wants. And then if you can hang on for Q&A. We're going to go to Dr. Fletcher for his...I think he's got a 10 to 12-minute presentation updated on climate...climate change. Dr. Fletcher?

MR. FLETCHER: Yes. Hi. Let's see, so share screen. There we go. I was shifting slides around real-time in order to avoid repeating the wonderful talk we just heard.

CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. FLETCHER: Can you...can you see my first slide here?

CHAIR KING: Yes we can. Global and --

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MR. FLETCHER: Okay.

CHAIR KING: -- local impacts of climate change.

MR. FLETCHER: Great. Yeah. All right. So we all know about the Paris Agreement in 2015 to stop global warming before it reaches 2 degrees C above the pre-industrial average temperature, and to pursue efforts to end warming before it reaches 1.5 degrees C. The truth is, we are not making good progress in this direction. In 2019, we see that the rate of growth globally of oil, coal, and gas usage is higher than the rate of growth of all these renewable energy sources at the bottom of the screen. Renewable energy is not actually replacing fossil fuels, it's helping to meet the demand for new energy. And in the same way oil didn't end the use of coal in the 19th Century, oil simply helped meet the demand for new energy in the 19th Century. And so we have oil, coal, and now with fracking, we see the rise of natural gas. The demand for new energy is coming largely from the developing nations, especially China, India, and from the African Continent and Central America. The developing nations want to reach western style levels of living. Unfortunately, that is coming with a great deal of deforestation, and a rising desire for beef as a source of food, and...and other trends that are not consistent with a more renewable type of economy. This illustration projects carbon dioxide emissions from British Petroleum, Equinor, ExxonMobil, International Energy Agency, and others. Some of these projections are from fossil fuel companies, others are from independent assessment organizations that track global energy usage. And you can see that they're all in very strong agreement that out to at least 2040, we're looking at continued CO2 emissions, although flattening, still arise in continued CO2 emissions. So these are projections or what they refer to every year in their various reports called outlooks. That's the pathway to meeting the Paris United Nations agreement's goals. So the dark...the black dotted line will take us to stopping warming at 1.5 degrees C, and the purple line to 2 degrees C. Resources for the Future Institute is a nonpartisan congressional think tank that was first created in the 1950s, and they're located in Washington D.C. They do not swing back and forth with whatever political party happens to be in power. They are an honest broker and a good messenger of trends in energy usage and...and other aspects related to resources. And in their 2019 report, they said that under most scenarios, carbon dioxide emissions from the global energy system are on a path to far exceed international targets of the Paris Agreement. And every place I look to find energy analysts, I see the same projection, the same description of our near-term future. So this is the history of CO2 emissions from the 19th Century, and it comes right up to the year 2020. And this is what we need to do with CO2 emissions. By 2050, in order to stop warming at 1.5 degrees, all emissions must reach zero in 30 years, and we need to remove CO2 from the atmosphere for several centuries. It could be less than several centuries depending on the technology or approach that we use and...and what the removal rate is. Here's the pathway to 2 degrees C, dropping emissions about 15 years later to zero. And the rate of dropping for 1.5 degrees C has to be about seven-and-a-half percent decrease in CO2 emissions per year beginning in the year 2020. And the pandemic has actually led us to that. So I'll discuss that in just a second. Fossil fuel producing nations have announced plans to produce 50 percent more fossil

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fuels by 2030 than is compatible with stopping at 2 degrees C. China is building more new coal plants than the rest of the world combined. India is opening 41 new coal mines as part of its post-COVID recovery plans. And the truth is, coal remains the single largest source of power generation globally, accounting for 36 percent of global power in 2019. Renewable energy provided only 10 percent of global power. To get to net zero by 2050, the world requires 2020-like reductions in carbon emissions every other year for the next 25 years. And I don't need to tell you about the severe and painful recession that we are going through right now. How we achieve these reductions in emissions without number one, going through a deeper recession, and also not blocking the recovery from this recession is the problem. So this can only be achieved by a radical shift in all our behaviors. COVID is forcing us to make this shift. What will the post-COVID economy look like? Will it come roaring back powered by fossil fuels? Will it come back slower, but powered by renewables? And is COVID here to stay as a quasi-permanent condition that suppresses economic growth? So this is the pathway. We're currently on a pathway of global warming of between three and three-and-a-half degrees Celsius by the end of the century. It's not the worst case. It's not the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change worst-case scenario by any means, but three to three-and-a-half degrees Celsius is extremely dangerous. One reason it's extremely dangerous is shown here. These black areas in the Sahara Desert are areas that are too hot for human existence. A fully healthy adult sitting in the shade with all the water they wanted would begin to experience organ failure after five or six hours in these locations. And the reason is that our metabolism generates heat, and when the air is this hot, you can't offload the heat. Your body cannot offload the heat, and so it begins to experience heat disease. These black areas represent one percent of the land surface too hot for human existence. But over the next 50 years, models project this will expand to 20 percent of land surface area too hot for human existence and displacing three billion people. One in every three people on this planet are either going to have to exist 24 hours every day in a condition of air conditioning, which makes no sense considering the construction and agriculture that typically has to take place, or they'll have to move. And so we're talking about a climate refugee problem of enormous proportions, which in fact, has already begun. Many of the folks trying to get into the southern border of the Continental U.S. have been displaced because of microclimate problems, such as drought in Central America killing off the ability to farm. And the Syrian conflict, where we saw the rise of ISIS, the civil war that developed in Syria grew out of a thousand-year drought that ended the farming economy of Syria and pushed four million people into urban areas, where they discovered the corrupt government of President Bashar al-Assad. So we are concerned with sea level rise as one of the consequences here, and satellites run by NASA document that Antarctic ice is melting overall. You see the downward decline in that red arrow. And the rate of melting has tripled over the past five years. And this is a portion of West Antarctica. It's that extremely dark red area on the left side of the continent. West Antarctica consists of a couple of large glaciers, the Pine Island, and the Thwaites glaciers. And a paper came out earlier this summer saying that the restraining systems that are keeping these glaciers from rapidly disintegrating appears to be falling apart. Back in 2014, these glaciers were confirmed as irreversibly melting. So they're already on a path of irreversible decline or decay. But that was expected to stretch out over centuries. So this recent paper from the summer says the

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natural buffer system preventing Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers from flowing rapidly is breaking down. The ice shelves are showing new damage areas that are the first signs of structural weakening, and precondition these ice shelves for disintegration. Greenland is also in a state of long-term ice loss. And a paper earlier this summer concluded that Greenland's melting has now passed the point of no return. This is expected to play out over many centuries; however, if we continue to drive the temperature higher, Greenland will melt that much faster. Snowfall that normally replenishes Greenland's glaciers each year can no longer keep up with the pace of melting ice. Coastal decisions --

CHAIR KING: Dr. Fletcher? Dr. Fletcher?

MR. FLETCHER: -- require long lead times. It would be nice if we could wait for the science to clear up on just how high sea level will rise this century, but we can't. And so with that in mind, a study was conducted, which led to statistical results, in this case one of their findings was that there is a 1 in 10 to a 1 in 20 chance of sea level exceeding two meters, or six-and-a-half feet by 2100. This is the West Coast, and this is your coastal road. And this is the impact of 3.2 feet of sea level rise that we have modeled in my research team. The light-blue color is stretches of highway that are impacted by either coastal erosion or wave overwash at 3.2 feet of sea level rise. The red line is the 80 percent probability of erosion line. And the blue line is either wave runup every year, or simply flooding because at 3.2 feet of sea level rise, the landscape under blue is below high tide. Here is the Kihei coast today, and here it is at 3.2 feet of sea level rise. Less roadway impacted, but you do see these blue patches inland of the coast. These are areas that will lie below high tide when sea level is 3.2 feet higher. And a line below high tide like that, they are most likely going to experience flooding by groundwater rise. The water table in the coastal zone goes up and down with the tides. So we know that as the sea level goes up, the water table will go up. And groundwater flooding like this is actually one of the most insidious forms of sea level impact because you cannot stop it. Seawalls will not stop this. And if you go to pump that, you'll simply be pulling more groundwater towards your pump. And what we're talking about here is the occurrence of new wetlands and the spread of those wetlands as sea level rises.

. . .END PRESENTATIONS. . .

CHAIR KING: So Dr. Fletcher, can I just interrupt --

MR. FLETCHER: Yeah.

CHAIR KING: -- you a second? Because you asked me to stop you at 15 minutes, which we've gone a little bit over.

MR. FLETCHER: Thank you.

CHAIR KING: And I...I wasn't --

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MR. FLETCHER: Okay.

CHAIR KING: -- sure how much longer you have. But I mean, it's fascinating, so I didn't want...I wanted you to get any important last points in that you had too.

MR. FLETCHER: Thank you for stopping me. I'm very glad you did. Why don't I end there and --

CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. FLETCHER: -- we can move on to discussion. And I will --

CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. FLETCHER: -- stop sharing. Thank you.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you so much. I really appreciate it. And you know, I don't know, I was trying to figure out how do you do that gracefully, tell someone to stop? But I...I so appreciate you being here, as well as Ms. Matthews. And so next, I wanted to go to...see if we have any comments, brief comments by the Planning Department. Is Michele McLean here or Jordan Hart, if there are any comments on their presentations?

MS. MCLEAN: Hi, Chair.

CHAIR KING: Hi.

MS. MCLEAN: Good morning, Chair. Hi. I don't have any comments on the presentations. I did have comments on the proposed resolution and bill, but no comments on the presentation at this time.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Yeah. And...and I think because we're running close and I did get a message from one Member who has to leave at noon that, you know, we're not going to take action today. The...the...the proposed legislation is...is going to be a deeper discussion. So we definitely want your thoughts on that. You know, if you want to wait until after we get into discussion to do that, that's fine. I...I want it to be something that we can all buy into, you know, if we...if it's important enough. So...so thank you. So no further comments then?

MS. MCLEAN: On the presentations, no. Yeah, I'll...I'll save my comments for the later discussion on the --

CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. MCLEAN: -- on the proposal. Thank you.

CHAIR KING: Thank you. Director Andaya, are you here? Do you have any comments to

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make?

MR. ANDAYA: I'm...I'm right here. Hi, Madam Chair.

CHAIR KING: Aloha.

MR. ANDAYA: Aloha. The only comment is that...I have is that we support your resolution. I think it makes a lot of sense. It's very logical that...especially since we just completed the Hazard Mitigation Plan, that...that it be in alignment with the General Plan. And so we've been working very closely with the Planning Department. In fact, many of their employees are members of our steering committee. And so...yeah, we just would like to recommend that we want to make sure that the General Plan is in alignment with the Hazard Mitigation Plan so that that way, our efforts are coordinated.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Great. Thank you so much for that, appreciate it. Let's see, and who else do we have on? Do we have...I don't think we have Long Range Planning, so...and we had Michele McLean speak for the Planning Department. Do we have anybody from the Office of Climate Action Sustainability and Resiliency? It doesn't look like it. Okay. And any...any comments from our...our other resource person, Lucienne de Naie who was involved in the original GPAC? Do you have any comments, Lucienne?

MS. DE NAIE: Thank you, Committee Chair King. Well, I've appreciated the presentation by Dr. Fletcher. And I especially think it's important that our...our goals reflect the fact that we are looking at ways in our planning process to look at mitigating the flooding, and mitigating the impacts of drought and so forth through policy. So it seems that the first step is to have these issues front and center in the Countywide Policy Plan as one of our chief objection...objectives as adapting to climate change conditions. And then, you know, if...if...I think there's a lot of language in the plan already that actually speaks to these things because it's...it's a pretty broad stroke in the Maui Island Plan and the Countywide Policy Plan. But it's nice to bring it front and center that this is something that...that's one of our, you know, 10, 12 priority actions.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Great. Thank you. And that was exactly the intent of putting it there, so it's front and center and then we can harness all those pieces that are throughout the plan under that one item. And...and also recognizing that...that there's crossover for every department and every other committee when it comes to climate change. So it's...it's not just this Committee that's going to be doing it, it's going to be the Council. All right. Thank you for that, Ms. de Naie. If we...if we don't have any other departments that would like to comment, we'll go ahead and open it up to the floor. And I'll try to limit to...we have about 30 minutes left, so we'll try to limit it to two questions each. And we'll start with our Council Chair Alice Lee, who has to leave. Oh, I'm sorry, did...I just saw Tara Owens. Tara, did you have some comments?

MS. OWENS: Hi. Good morning. Thanks for calling on me. I don't have a lot to add either. But just as you further consider your...your proposed legislation, which...which of course, as...as everyone has suggested and the testifiers as well, I think everyone

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would support. There's one other additional resource that may be useful, which is a document that was just recently published by...by my Sea Grant team, but in...in close collaboration over several years with all the planning departments across the State and across the counties. And it's...it's titled Guidance for Addressing Sea Level Rise in Community Planning in Hawaii. I can share that with you, and it is on the Sea Grant's website. It's targeted at the community plan level, and is meant to assist the planners sort of in building and improving upon all the recommendations from the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Report. But I think some of it may overlap too, with the General Plan and the Maui Island Plan. So it may be worth just taking a look at that.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Can you put the link in the chat box for now?

MS. OWENS: Will do.

CHAIR KING: Okay.

MS. OWENS: Yeah.

CHAIR KING: And then this...so this is an ongoing discussion so, you know, we're...we're just kind of getting...we're just starting this discussion. So I appreciate all the...all the resources that we can get that are pertinent. Okay. I'm going to go...thank you for that, Ms. Owens. And I'm going to go to Council Chair Lee because I know you have to leave at noon. So do you have any questions for either Ms. Matthews or Dr. Fletcher?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, actually, I don't. I...I support what you're proposing. I appreciated both presentations. And I look forward to more discussion and...and voting on this at some point. Thank you.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you so much. Okay. And then I'm going to move down this way as I see the boxes. So going next to Council Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo for this initiative. I fully support this. I...I know we're not voting on anything today, but I think it would be...so I had two questions or comments. One, so the...the resolution is to send these amendments to the different planning commissions and to...oh, it doesn't include Hana. Was the intention not to send it to the Hana Advisory Committee as well?

CHAIR KING: No, I think the intention is to send it to all the advisory committees. So, you know, that...and that's why, you know, it's not ready to be voted on because I wanted to get those kinds of comments and make sure that there's...you know, see where the support is and...before we move forward. So...and hopefully, at some point we'll have a couple of other advisory committees. Just a little --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR KING: -- hint there.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got your hint, and I support that hint too. So...yeah. So I think when we bring it back, if we can include the advisory committees to, you know, to receive this. And I think it would...it would really be awesome if each of the Councilmembers could also take it to their districts for discussion with their, you know, constituents. I...I know we represent everyone at large, but we also have our residency districts. Since that's where we reside, it's easiest for us to have a smaller discussion with those that reside in our residency district to go over some of the amendments that...and then the other question was, is the...are we...you know, as far as process, looking at the General Plan, and then making amendments accordingly to the Maui Island Plan, and to the, you know, community plans that...the two that have passed so far.

CHAIR KING: Well, yeah, that...for...for this proposal, this addresses the Countywide Policy Plan because there's a list of goals and action items in there, and that's part of the Maui Island Plan. So where we want to take this from there, we can, you know, certainly insert it. This hopefully will inform...I mean, as we have all been trying to do and inform all of our actions through the Countywide Policy Plan. So hopefully, this will carry on through those other entities as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. I support that. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR KING: Okay, mahalo. All right. Committee Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci, questions, discussion?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Chair, yeah, great presentation. And mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez for bringing it to the...to the advisory committees. Thank you for that. And we can definitely go ahead and share it with our community. For Ms. Matthews, you know, she mentioned about climate refugees. Are we at a point...and I know that some of our Pacific islands...just kind of focusing us in the Pacific. Pacific islanders, you know, their...especially those nations that are just atolls, have we been seeing more of that lately? And how...I think the...the entire presentation is just the urgency when we're looking at...and just looking at some of our Pacific islanders. Have we started to see a lot of that climate refugees from other Pacific island nations?

CHAIR KING: Ms. Matthews?

MS. MATTHEWS: Thank you for the question. Thank you for the question, Councilmember Sinenci. And I would say that we have seen some of our Pacific communities...when I was trained as a Climate Reality leader in Brisbane, we...we're...we heard from leaders in the Pacific, of Pacific nations that were talking specifically about how their...places where they grew up will not be there for very much longer. We've already seen a lot of climate refugees flee to safer places. The United Nations...the UNHRC recognizes that the climate...consequences of climate change are serious and...including for refugees and other people of concern. And so they've actually...the global compact on refugees adopted by an overwhelming majority in the UN General Assembly in 2019 directly addresses that growing concern. Another person that I believe that has done a

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plethora of research, and I can share her resources with the Council, is Professor Maxine Burkett at the law school, who has done an immense amount of research into climate refugees. And so this is something that is a natural disaster that is driving a lot of the refugee movements that we see around the world, and even here in Hawaii. And so we do have a role when we're thinking about doing these different types of things and taking actions. It's actually saving people's homes where they are and where they are rooted and where they're from. And so I can share...I'll drop the link to the UNHRC's policy guidance on that, and also share with Councilmember King Professor Maxine Burkett's work on that.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Great. Thank you, Ms. Matthews. And then my other question is for Dr. Fletcher. You know, sometimes in Hawaii, we don't always see the effects...I mean, we see it on the news of the fires and that type of stuff. For us in Hawaii, and you showing the SLR-XA, I, of course, just after this, I want to go outside and start planting trees, right? There's small things that we can do here in Hawaii. We don't always see the global effects here in the Pacific. But what can...can we do just as...at the local scale?

MR. FLETCHER: Thank you for those comments. So I want everybody to know that the 3.2 SLR-XA is a minimum estimate. As we watch Antarctica and Greenland evolving, 3.2 feet of sea level rise is...the likelihood of it occurring before 2100 is growing. Also, directly to your question, I would point everybody towards a new Netflix documentary called Kiss the Ground. And it talks about regenerative agriculture. It talks about how leaving fields of...of dirt open to the air causes them to release CO₂. And if we were instead to use cover crops, we could actually...we could actually have more CO₂ going into the soil. And if this were done on every ag field around the planet, we could pull 800,000 tons of CO₂ out of the atmosphere by mid-Century, shortly after mid-Century. And there is a new United Nations program focused on this. Because regenerative agriculture is a safe, logical, it's consistent with indigenous practices, way to go. It...it means we don't need to use synthetic fertilizer, we don't need to use synthetic pesticides. It...it eliminates soil erosion. And you can also run cattle on it or sheep. If you move them from paddock to paddock, they naturally fertilize the ground. They grind it in with their hooves. And there's just a...this is just a very consistent way of...of doing agriculture. And I think Hawaii is poised to show the world how to do this. And I would like to see more strong movement in...in that direction. So I won't go on. Thank...thanks for your comments.

CHAIR KING: Yeah, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Doctor. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR KING: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Yeah, Dr. Fletcher, I really appreciate you bringing that up because originally, that was one of my intentions, was to show the trailer for Kiss the Ground.

MR. FLETCHER: Oh, good.

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CHAIR KING: Yeah. And I...and I am possibly going to do that in the next meeting, or if...if Councilmember Sinenci, who chairs the Environmental Ag Committee, wants to do that. I...I actually had a conversation with Woody Harrelson, who narrates the film, about it because the last...the...we were driving home when I saw the...when I was watching the trailer. And it was, you know, we were getting really frustrated with what's happening on the farm and, you know, seeing some of the...the tilling that's going on the island. And his last words on that trailer were don't give up, I haven't. It was like so...you know, it just it was really what...where we need to be. We...we just can't give up. There's not an option of giving up. So thank you for mentioning that. And I...I'm hoping that...I mean, I don't think we can show the whole film during a meeting, but the trailer is very short and just it captures the whole essence of what that film is about, so.

MR. FLETCHER: Great.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Moving on to Councilmember Paltin, who has the world behind her.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. It's an aerial of Honokohua. I just...my question is for Mr. Fletcher, couple questions. Is it your understanding of the 3.2 sea level rise would be like a constant around the globe, or is the equator areas destined for higher than 3.2 would be my first question. And...and my second is, how much conversation do you have with the State Department of Transportation? Member Sinenci and I are on the Metropolitan Planning Organization and consistently, every single meeting I can, I push for the Ukumehame section, that is that neon blue in your presentation. Half the month already it's underwater as we...we drive over to the other side. And yet, they still want to push ahead with the Phase 1C, which is the northern terminus. And there's no sense in doing Phase 1C if you can't get to the southern terminus. So I just was wondering if they are aware of your drawings and your presentations because they're...they're SSA backwards?

MR. FLETCHER: Yes. They know all about our work. In fact, they have also produced their own sea level analysis, and they're...they have proposed a sea level atlas, I believe it is, that's available online, showing the sections of highway around the State that are vulnerable to...I think they have intervals, but certainly three feet. They're very aware of this. So, you know, that...that's...that's point number one. Your first question gave me a lot of joy because it shows you are a highly aware person when it comes to sea level rise. One of the things that 3.2 feet does not include is the local impact, where we're likely to see on the order of 20 to 25 percent greater sea level rise than the global mean. So 3.2 is a global average, and it's also getting very out of date. It's from the 2013 IPCC report which, when we started our modeling, was the...the...the cutting edge peer-reviewed approach. I'm applying to National Science Foundation, and I've applied to some other agencies to do what I'm calling sea level rise 2.0. So I want to include this sort of regional local effect on sea level rise, get away from the weird decimal figures, and just do one-foot increments, have a slider like NOAA has and...and redoing the wave runup and the coastal erosion, et cetera, et cetera. It'll be a few years, but yeah, all that needs updating.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And...and I've pressured many times. You know, just with the intensified hurricanes and storms, we could be cut off on that Ukumehame stretch and Olowalu on the other side of the peninsula, just to cut a path through the government lands, the firing range at Ukumehame to that subdivision, but they're...they're not hearing it. I guess, you know, the cost and...and the Phase 1C is shovel ready and they want to kick start the economy. But from what you're saying, the economy is not going to be able to...I mean, how are you going to have the economy when you can't get to Phase 1C and...and the majority of the State's money comes out of Kaanapali? And if they can't even drive there, then how will that matter basically? So I mean...

MR. FLETCHER: I'll...I'll leave the interpretation and my comments to you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Pretty frustrating. Thank you.

CHAIR KING: Thank you, Member Paltin. Yeah, I know that's frustrating to not be heard, especially when you're living it every day. Okay. Thank you, Dr. Fletcher. We'll go next to Councilmember Hokama, if you have any questions or comments.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. I'm very happy to hear the discussion this morning, Chair. I would just ask, Chair, is there great differences because, you know, it seems interchangeable, depend who you talk to, between resiliency and sustainability. So I don't have a problem with resiliency, yeah, because it's...it's about the character of your community, yeah, to be resilient, to be able to come back from a challenge, whether it's natural or manmade or whatever. And yet, but we use the word "sustainable" a lot too also. And so I...I just ask that question, if it makes any difference from your perspective as our Chair as we move this forward. Because I'm very supportive, I just was wondering if there's a big difference in our discussions.

CHAIR KING: Well, thank you for that question because there really isn't. You know, we...in fact, when...when...25 years ago when my husband and I started Pacific Biodiesel and we started using that word "sustainable," it wasn't being used that much. And then it started being used more often and more often. And then it started being used and abused and misused. And so at one point, folks went to the idea of resiliency to...to give it a little different flavor. We're...we're all trying to get to the same, you know, the end goal, which is lowering our temperature on the earth. That's the main crux of the sea level...the climate action. And then...and seeing if we can do anything about sea level rise. But mainly where we're at right now is, right, reacting to it and being preemptive of where we know it's coming, that it's going to destroy some of our infrastructure. But no, I mean, I think that's a great question because in the...in the whole climate world and the renewable energy world, I think a lot of us felt like it was being abused, and there was a lot of greenwashing going on by people just, you know, kind of coopting the word. So in the agriculture community, they went to resiliency because that's what we're not seeing on our ag land, you know, when we...when we do the kind of irrigation that we've done. And centuries...I don't know how many years later, we're decades later, and we're still pulling up black tape from the underground irrigation that...the drip irrigation they...the sugar cane industry did. So the idea of

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resiliency is, how are we going to keep the land renewed, how are we going to regenerate. And the soil is such a...like Dr. Fletcher said, the soil is such a huge drawn down for climate change if we could do it, you know, worldwide. And we have a lot of fallow land that we have to look at. So I hope that answers your question because it's...it's really...and when people use those words, they don't...they may not even mean the same thing as the next person who's using those words.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. And thank you for your comments, Chair. Again, I just brought it up because people ask me what is the difference, and I'm not very clear on it either. So maybe we can assist our community have a better understanding of those two words. For Dr. Fletcher, I appreciate your handout. I'm like Ms. Paltin, a lot of our revenue at this time comes from the coastline, shoreline area from Makena to Kapalua for Maui Island. And so I notice from your graphs...all your photographs, potential impact regarding the coastline with rises. And of course, it impacts a lot of our big generating hotel resort properties. So my thing, Dr. Fletcher, is do you believe we have sufficient time to do appropriate land use mitigation projects that makes sense regarding the amount of money that it'll take, as well as the amount of time that they could possibly present for us to have a safety buffer for community concerns? Is that something you could give comment on, please? Thank you.

MR. FLETCHER: Yes. So let me comment on your earlier question also. You defined resiliency as I understand it very well. It's when there is a challenge, you sustain less damage, and you come back faster. Sustainability means that you're using resources in a way that doesn't steal them from the future. Right? Nature can replace your resources at the pace that you use them. Groundwater, soil, what have you. With regard to adapting to sea level rise, we've been making slow but steady progress on eliminating seawalls. There's just been Senate Bill 2060, which will change Chapter 205A, the CZM Act, in very positive ways. But we still haven't figured out how we are going to assist the transition of communities away from the coastal zone. And some people have the opinion that well, it's not up to government to do that, they can take care of themselves. I...other people, especially in those communities, feel that it is up to government to pay for all that, and that buyouts, just flat-out buyouts, are the appropriate approach. I like to think that there's something in between. I think that every parcel owner has their own financial carrot, if you will. You have illegal vacation rentals, you have elderly couples that don't have anybody to leave their property to, you have people that are in debt on their coastal zone. I think...I think there needs to be a toolbox of financial incentives to assist people to walk away from these doomed locations. And yes, I believe there is time to do this, but there needs to be a study of the approach that I just described. And I'm sorry about the background noise, I'm renovating a bedroom.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: No, I appreciate your...I appreciate your comments, Dr. Fletcher. And...and thank you very much. Again, you know, you work as part of the State structure, and do you believe that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, one, needs more resources from the Legislature, but to take a more leadership role as a State department and agency that has jurisdiction over our environment, our land, our ocean? And that they should be stepping up, whether it

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be the Land Board and its director or chairman to do what we need to do on a Statewide basis so that all the counties can respond equitably and consistently with some fairness.

MR. FLETCHER: So I'm going...I'm going to use a much softer description. I think DLNR...I think DLNR has done a great job building partnerships with all the counties. They, like...like everybody, don't have the funds to do, you know, a clean buyout of these properties, but I think there's an awful lot that we can still do. And I think between the counties, DLNR, and the Office of Planning, the CZM program, I think there's Federal money, and I think there's local money, that now we know also has to generate jobs. So fundamentally, leaving the coastal zone is an engineering and construction issue. So if we can figure this out in a way that employs more people, if we can find the funding for this, maybe it's in the CARES Act, you know, next year's CARES Act or whatever that looks like, I think we can...we can move strongly on this...on this issue.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Dr. Fletcher. I...I hope you don't lose your faith because we're going to need people like you to help move us forward. So thank you very much for your time and your responses. Thank you, Chair King.

MR. FLETCHER: Thank you.

CHAIR KING: All right, thank you, Member Hokama. We'll...we'll expect you to continue on after this term, knocking on doors and looking for money for us. So no, I think that's...that was a great thing about bringing in the...the THRIVE Agenda folks is, you know, they're talking about Federal monies, and it's up to all of us to lobby for those Federal monies. I did want to share with the...the Committee before we leave that ICLEI is the international organization...it used to be called...it used to...ICLEI used to stand for the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives, and now they call themselves ICLEI, Local...Local Governments...I can't even read, it's too small, but Governments for Sustainability, I think, speaking of sustainability. So they're launching the world's first and largest online gathering on climate change for urban leaders. Hopefully we can get one for rural leaders as well. And this is...starts on October 7th through the 28th. There's going to be various activities. So I will share that with the Committee as well. And lastly, I wanted to mention that there's an organization...the other word that we're hearing a lot is "regenerative," and there's an organization called First Crop that defines regenerative act as an individual practice or choice rooted in the collective benefit for all. So I...I wanted to kind of leave you with that. And any last words, Ms. Matthews? And then I'll go to Dr. Fletcher with just any final thoughts.

MS. MATTHEWS: I just would like to say thank you to the Council, and thank you to this Committee for taking on this issue. That I would be remiss if...we would love to have other leaders join us. As I said, we had about 60 people that were trained over the summer. And so if anybody would like to join our chapter, they can go to climaterealityproject.org to learn more about the work that we're doing, and also join in the work of the Hawaii chapter. So thank you so much.

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CHAIR KING: Okay, thank you, Ms. Matthews. And I did hear just yesterday that the Hawaii chapter has now separated into island chapters ,so we actually have Climate Reality Maui Chapter now. So that's focused just on Maui. And Dr. Fletcher, any last words?

MR. FLETCHER: I just wanted to say thank you very much. You guys are...are doing wonderful work, and it's...it's this sort of effort that's going to get us where we need to be to thrive in the future. Thank you very much.

CHAIR KING: Well, thank you for...yeah, and thank you for always being there for us too and showing up to help us...help the light the pathway and...and talk about some of these issues. I was...the previous presentation by Ms. Matthews, it showed the incremental...the exponential amount of solar that's been happening, you know, versus what we thought would happen, was very encouraging. So these are the kinds of things that keep giving us hope and...and keep us inspired to move forward. So thank you to both of you for the presentations. And Committee, if there's no objections, we will defer the matter and we'll all work on the bill and tweak it a little bit.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: TK)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

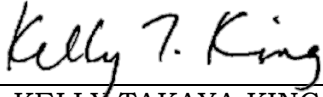
CHAIR KING: And we will try to bring this back to Committee and pass it out, and then send it from Committee into the public. As Council Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez suggested we'll...we'll try to get, you know, either a bunch of town hall meetings or...or, you know, in different areas and get everybody's input on this. We're not going to take five years like the GPAC took because we know we have to move boldly and quickly. But, you know, we definitely want everybody in the community to be on board with what...where we're going and why we're highlighting climate action. Okay. Any other...if there's no other items, I think we finished our agenda for today. And thank you very much to the Committee for your thoughtful questions and discussion and support for moving forward on these two items. With that, it's 12:01, and the Committee is adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 12:01 p.m.

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Council of the County of Maui

September 29, 2020

APPROVED:



KELLY TAKAYA KING, Chair
Climate Action and Resilience
Committee

car:min:200929-d

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 49 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 26th day of October 2020, in Kula, Hawai`i

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

Daniel Schoenbeck