

HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

November 30, 2020

Online via BlueJeans Link

CONVENE: 1:30 p.m.

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

EXCUSED: Councilmember Kelly Takaya King

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

Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Kelly Takaya King
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Riki Hokama
Christi Keliikoa, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tamara
Paltin
Sarah Pajimola, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani
Rawlins-Fernandez

ADMIN.: Karla Peters, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
(HFC-79)
Mary Kielty, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and
Recreation (HFC-79)
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Susun White, Executive Director, Paia Youth & Cultural Center
(HFC-79)
Peter Swanzky, Hekili Multimedia Lab Program Specialist, Paia
Youth & Cultural Center (HFC-79)
Elizabeth Starr (HFC-79)
Francine Aarona (HFC-79)

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Faith Chase

Warren Watanabe, Maui County Farm Bureau (HFC-24)

Mary Ann Pahukoa (HFC-79, HFC-24)

Kyle Caires (HFC-24)

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good afternoon. Aloha, everyone. Welcome to the Council's Committee on Healthy Families and Communities. This is our regular meeting of 30th of November 2020. And present this afternoon is our Vice-Chair, Ms. Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I had to unmute myself. Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good afternoon. Thank you for being here. We also have as...from the Committee this afternoon, we have Ms. Kama. Welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha. Ms. King is excused from today's meeting. Our gentleman on the Committee this afternoon, Mr. Molina. Welcome, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good afternoon, Chairman and everyone, from beautiful sunny Makawao.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good to hear. Good to hear. And we'd like to welcome our colleague from West Maui, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina.

CHAIR HOKAMA: 'Ae. Aloha e. Thank you very much. We also would welcome Ms. Lee or Mr. Sinenci any time in our proceedings. This afternoon, Members, we'll be taking up a couple of items and of course, some recommendations for referral to the next Council. But before that, we'll be happy to take people's comments on those agendized items. So we would request any individual to please share...yes, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I...I'm sure everyone's been receiving testimony...written testimony regarding the feral animals, thinking that it's going to be on cats. So I think maybe if you...if you would announce little bit about your intention with the feral animal item, then it could, you know, give some testifiers some relief that it doesn't have to do with feral cats.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay, thank you. No, thank you for that suggestion. And the Chair will take that suggestion and share with everyone, and that is why if you look at our posted agenda, Members, it is specifically relating to the axis deer management component of feral game animals. While I appreciate everyone's interest in...in the portions of that subject area, that's not our focus for this afternoon. Yeah, part of this is to help the Administration have clarification on the use of our Budget Ordinance that Council has passed to do mitigation programs in each impacted region of the County to deal with current damages from feral animals. It is not about a specific issue or about cats, this something more about the axis deer on Moloka'i, Maui, and Lāna'i. So we happy to have those comments from anyone wishing to share it with us, but that's the focus of that specific item this afternoon. Thank you, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Okay. So people, we are happy to take your comments this afternoon. So anyone wishing to share that, please we ask that you state your name. If you represent an organization, we ask you please share that with us also. If you are a professional or paid lobbyist, we request that you disclose that information to the Committee. We provide each testifier three minutes on each agendized item, and that Members may have a question for clarification purposes only. We will...also, I will enforce decorum at this time. And after the testimony portion is officially completed and the Members have authorized the closure, those that as I understand is now our practice, we will have them adjusted regarding the use of this program or software BlueJeans. Okay. With that, I'm going to ask Ms. Milner, our Committee Staff, to please help announce our first testifier.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. Our first testifier is Elizabeth Starr.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. STARR: Aloha, everybody.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. STARR: Am I...or am I with you?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, you are. We can hear --

MS. STARR: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- and see you.

MS. STARR: Okay. I apologize, I haven't learned the technology to put the photograph of the magnificent place behind me, so you get to peer into my private quarters here. So that being said, aloha 'auinalā. I'm going to read my testimony just to make sure that I make my points, and it's not long. I think it's two minutes. Aloha, Committee

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Members, and thank you for serving today. I am Lisa Starr, the Vice-President of the Board of the Directors for Paia Youth Council, Inc. I have happily continued serving on the board for 20 years. The resolution for the extended land area and 50-year lease term to Paia Youth Council being considered here today is the result of countless hours of input and attention by the Parks' directors, staff, PYC's Executive Director Susun White with board input. The lease terms seem very complete and well executed to me. The testimony I would like to present is about the reliability of the board and the staff for PYCC. And in case you...I should make this distinction. PYC, Inc. is the entity with...that's the nonprofit registered entity. It's like the dba is the PYCC, Paia Youth & Cultural Center. So that's the differentiation there. So the testimony I'd like to present is about the reliability of the board and staff for PYCC. We have maintained ten board members, average length of terms ten years, though several of us have been on the board for closer to 20 years. I mention this because I feel this solid history of continuity merits recognition, and suggests the likely future continuity, which would be significant for the evaluation of the 50-year lease. The same dedication of the staff can also be noticed, also a ten-year average, a remarkably low turnover rate. Our ED, Susun White, has maintained her role as an exemplary ED since PYCC's inception. The PYCC model of excellent programs guided by skilled, inspired, and reliable staff is some of the reasons for this cohesive and impressive nonprofit youth center's endurance. PYCC's irrefutable value to the community can be measured by its past reputation around Maui County and across the State. PYCC started very humbly in 1993 in a 1927 building facility that has been adapted to be as accommodating as possible. This continuous and impressive management and expansion of programs and membership provides a reliable insight to what can be expected from PYCC for future decades. Approval for the expanded lease area for a 50-year term is essential for assuring that PYCC will be able to serve Maui's youth for many more generations. Thank you for your consideration. Any questions?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your comments this afternoon, Ms. Starr. I see Ms. Paltin has a question for you.

MS. STARR: Sure. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Starr, for your testimony today. My clarifying question is, you know, when you said that you spent a lot of hours with the Parks Department, I just was wondering if there was any outreach to the community, just...or was it strictly the Parks Department? And...and by community, I don't mean the folks that utilize the PYCC.

MS. STARR: Yeah, I understand what you mean. You know, Susun White, who's also on this, the ED, might be better to direct that to her. But I would say that from my point of view, the answer would be that we would anticipate that during this process would be when the exposure and introduction to the public of this request and further hearings and testimony. That's when it would be brought to the public, and not prior to it having sort of gelled by the results of a meeting like this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you so much, Ms. Starr. And thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Anyone else has a question? Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Starr, for being here. You know, it seems like you have a really great handle on what you would consider the longevity and sustainability of the youth center. So do you have...is there a plan in place of some sort to be able to recruit others so that they can begin that...the trend or the...or the...the generation of perpetuating, you know, your...the longevity of the term of, you know, your staff and/or your board members?

MS. STARR: That's a great question. And again, Susun would...who, you know, lives and breathes every minute, day in and day out, is probably even better suited. But from my point of view, what I've been able to observe is that the staffing comes from the bottom...the bottom up in a lot of ways. And so those who have been there maybe came in as...as the outreach in the beginning. They established themselves, they got another position. You know, that being said, the staff, the...the core staff for all the different programs that we have, all have college degrees and are highly educated. So there's some limitation to how much you can get from the bottom up. But you know, the...the youth center keeps in touch with all members, former members, as much as possible. Susun knows the...all these kids going way back, and now they're...these kid's kids are starting to come in, you know. And yeah, I think that as far as the leadership roles within the center, so where...where Susun times out at some point, she's been there for 27 years, yes, we do have some...we've...we've already started to identify ways to reshape the structure of staffing within...from within what we've...the resources we...which is --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Great.

MS. STARR: -- so excellent of what we already have.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. Right.

MS. STARR: Yeah, we think about that a lot because, you know, what's the point of...of doing all this if we don't know there's going to be humans to keep it going.

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you so much, Ms. Kama. Anyone else has a clarification request? If not, Ms. Starr, we thank you for your time and comments this afternoon.

MS. STARR: Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Milner, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Francine Aarona.

MS. AARONA: Aloha.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. AARONA: I'm not sure if you can see me on the video. I can see you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. Right now, we can just hear you very clearly.

MS. AARONA: Yeah, e kala mai. I'm not...I'm not used to...to this. But anyway, my name is Francine Aarona. They call me Auntie Mopsy. Aloha, Chair Hokama, Vice-Chair Sugimura, and Councilmembers. Mahalo for your dedication in keeping our community safe during these times of uncertainty. We have experienced many changes in how we do business in our Paia community--some good, some not so good--and that brings me to this item, HFC-79, authorizing a grant of a lease for 50 years of County recreational space to Paia Youth Council. You know, as a kupuna, we do everything for our moopuna. We help provide for them and teach them to malama the aina. I have no issues in caring and providing a place for our children and young...and young adults. But unfortunately, I have an issue with this request. My first issue is, what happened to the Baldwin Beach project? The suggested new lease area covers a lot of shoreline access for our fishermen and beachgoers. The second issue is the existing parking lot that fronts the youth center that money has been allocated already to do renovations. If I'm reading the new lease correctly, it covers that area. So who will have authorization to improve that park...that public parking site? The third issue, which is the biggest that I have, is that the Paia community has no information of this request. In planning the Baldwin Beach project, the youth center was part of that discussion, and there were issues brought up by board members and not addressed. I believe the resolution mentions construction of buildings, programs that are suggested, but there are no designs or information to support this. The new lease is located in the setback shore...shoreline area. There is much more discussion that should be done with the community before this grant is issued. This parcel was purchased to provide access to the shoreline for the community, who consists of fishermen, surfers, boogie boarders, and a family picnic area. The Parks and Recreation Department has cleared much of the land. Let's clear the whole parcel so that there is visibility to the shoreline. It will create a safe environment for beachgoers, and enforcement will be able to locate the problem faster. I ask that this Committee deny this request until the County present more information to the community, and the parking lot be renovated with the funds already appropriated. If a lease is to be granted, it should only be for the existing area of the youth center and skate rink. I ask that the County put their best efforts forward to be accountable to the community, and accept the liability issues to serve the community. Mahalo so much for your kind attention.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mahalo for your...mahalo for your words this afternoon. Thank you for your time you have shared with us. I'm going to ask our Members, is there anyone that would like to ask Auntie Mopsy a clarification regarding her testimony, Members? Mr. Molina, then Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon, Auntie Mopsy. Just

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to...for clarification, but when did you first hear about this lease proposal?

MS. AARONA: I normally...I enrolled on the information that the Council sends me updated on meetings and...but I didn't have enough time to get it out to the community. We have a hui malama Paia neighborhood board that we try to get information out to. And I had to reach out to a board member who sits on the Baldwin Beach Park project. And I talked with him, and I wanted some clarification on what the issues were during the...the project. And so he clarified my intuitions on what I thought. And I feel bad about this dropping the ball thing. I mean, it's kind of put on the wayside, and then all of a sudden you hear about this agenda that's coming forth for a lease. I am not against in providing for our youth, believe me, but I think that the word "transparency" keeps popping up, and we need to be transparent in...in our conveying of what is going on. Like how we did with the beach project, it stopped --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MS. AARONA: -- all of a sudden.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for your response to that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Paltin, do you have a question for Auntie Mopsy?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Member Molina, for asking one of my questions. I had one other one. It was...you know, just to clarify, when you said, do not pass this lease today, you meant for Paia Youth...Cultural Center or somebody to have a meeting with the community, and then talk things out. And then if it sounds good, then we pass it? Is...is that kind of what you meant by that, or...

MS. AARONA: You know, when I say not to pass it, I really don't mean that you forget about it altogether. I think that the Paia Youth Council wants to be responsible for the people who use the facilities in order for them to get assistance with grants or money to do the projects that they want to do. But the existing center is located on the shoreline. And if you physically came out to look at where it is--and I've been there--the kitchen side is...well, the water comes up. So if you're saying that...or if this project is saying that they want this new area, or this new leased area, which is located on the setback, they're only asking for more problems. So I believe the beach...the Baldwin Beach project, there were...the Paia center was involved in the discussion, and there was talks about moving or constructing another building, which would be further away from the shoreline, that would assist our youth. So when I say I deny this request today, yes, I do, but I do not want it to be forgotten. If they want to have responsibility for the youth center, then they should ask for the lease for just the existing portion, and let the County continue to renovate the parking lot and the rest of the Baldwin Beach Park area.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Auntie Mopsy. And if I can just clarify, when you said Paia Youth Council, is that something separate than the Paia Youth...Cultural

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Center?

MS. AARONA: No, I don't think so. I got confused too, when I saw the agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. AARONA: And when --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. AARONA: -- looking at the resolution and the plans, it involves the Paia Youth Center, which we automatically call that. Yeah. So I got...yeah, I got confused when I did look at the agenda and I saw Paia Youth Council, I didn't realize we had a more formal council than who comes out to help at the youth center.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. AARONA: You're welcome. Mahalo so much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Aunty Mopsy. Okay. We're going to go to our next testifier please, Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Faith Chase.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Council.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha, Ms. Chase.

MS. CHASE: Hi. Hi. I...I'm actually speaking more on HFC-24, but I will have...I do have some comments on some discretionary referrals that I can do swiftly. I just wanted to...first of all, I'm glad that it's on the agenda and moving forward to the next Council. If I recall correctly, you were dealing...Chair, you were dealing with the new cases of COVID when this item was decidedly put...referred into Shane's Committee. And so you weren't there too, but I...I think everybody was in agreement that that was an okay placement. I just wanted to remind the body that I am aware that the Mayor made some allocations to the outfit Kia Hawaii, LLC, who is...which is run by Jake Muise. There was a lot of heated testimony last year. I tried to come from a really academic place, having done the axis deer survey a few years back. I just wanted to remind the body, and that it be on the public record, and I will include it in my written testimony that Kawika Davidson, the President of the Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana, is...he and a few of his key leaders, some who I believe you might, Council [sic] Chair, know because of their frequent past hunting expeditions and family on your island. But there's a few really key leaders there that would be, I think, instrumental in creating sound policy moving forward for Maui County game land management. I just wanted to remind the body of that. And I'm certainly...I'm

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certainly open to supporting the local subsistence hunters. I don't think that they've...there was some really ambitious and vigorous meetings pre-COVID last year of concern of those subsistence hunters. And certainly, all conversations have been...have had a different tempo. Not suggesting that they are not Zoom-friendly or could adapt to this, but they need to be able to somehow be provided that voice. So I hope that is provided somehow, either with the lead of Kawika or Shane and his Committee, but that is necessary to hear the ground voices. And I hear that in your feedback...or I've heard that in your feedback, Chair, through the years. Moving forward, I just want to make a few comments on the discretionary items. The Maui Emergency Management Agency, the HFC-34, I'm...I'm really interested in that because that is who initially I called in regards to COVID concerns. I spoke to Mr. Andaya, and he seemed very...it's a very nervous time, and it seemed very, for lack of a better word, ill-equipped on how to deal with the situation. So if Maui Emergency Management Agency is supposed to be what the Civil Defense would be encompassing, then I'm interested to learn more about this. So I'm just happy it's on the agenda. I'm certainly pleased to see the sex trafficking continuing on as a conversation, as an item, 44. The health of Maui County farmers, I just really want to encourage that perhaps the organic farmers that may not have been involved in some of the distribution are looked after. I can't speak on their behalf to say if they are suffering as far as business goes, but I would just like to see--if we are spending County money to help these farmers that maybe normally would have supplied the hotels and...and that surplus, I'd like to see if perhaps if that new Department of Ag can at least populate their databases with that differentiating information about the organic farmers so that we could spread the wealth fairly. HFC-66, the evictions during COVID, really important. I'm glad that it's moving forward. I...I predict that maybe an entity...a separate entity might be have...might need to be identified to actually assist in this niche area of need moving forward. It's a sticky wicket. Hale Hawai'i, HFC-71, I'm really interested in learning more about their efforts, and I just would encourage anybody who is listening from that organization that they do a thorough reach to all the organizations, and not limit themselves to the ones that actually shake hands with the County, which are limited. You know, there's a lot of grassroots organizations that you could get information from. I don't know enough about it. HFC-72, Kanahā Beach Greywater Reuse Demonstration Project. Yeehaw. There is nothing better, there is nothing more on the agenda about beginning proper environmental conscious resource recovery than this. So I am so glad, and I'm sure the demonstration project will go well, and we need to, you know, duplicate that, the multiplier effect as that moves forward. HFC-73, Animals at Large, I'm not really sure what that's about, I didn't get to really read into it. But after hearing the equine-related business needs during the COVID testimonies, I don't know, perhaps maybe we will be able to include those kind of...those...those animal husbandry issues at heart differently if...it could be a stretch there, but anyway. And then one last comment on the Commission on Arts. I don't recall the number. Okay, HFC-80. I thought...wasn't there a commission within the DHHC, a commission on arts and culture? Anyway, I'm not sure, I will follow up on that. But it sounds great, but I'm just wondering if we're duplicating or if maybe that is dormant, that arts and culture. And of course, the rapid response COVID-19 task force. It's a...it's a bit mystery, HFC-81, but I'm really glad to see it move forward. I'll be following that. Thank you for your time today.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Ms. Chase, for your comments. Ms. Paltin, a question for Ms. Chase?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Chase, for your testimony today. I just wanted to clarify that beginning money, you were talking about the 200,000 to Kia, LLC. That was the CARES appropriation to Kia, LLC that you were referring to?

MS. CHASE: Yeah. And I'm admittedly not...I didn't get to data mine that as much. I certainly have to admit that. But it makes me scratch my head, having heard all the pushback from the community. And you know, I just want to say Big Island, God bless *Akakū*. I mean no insult to *Akakū* but, you know, Big Island they have their community TV, and then they have...I'm not sure if it's...I don't believe it's county funded, but what they do is they take those smaller hearings of input from the community that have to do with hunting and resources, and they take snippets of that, and they share it out to the greater island. And I feel like we...if...if Maui County heard the examples of the complaints from this outfit from other islands, maybe it would kind of balance. Because we don't have...we haven't had that ability to sort of share those smaller meetings of the game and land management, the subsistence hunters and the frustrations. It hasn't been as public. But Hawai'i, ai, I mean first of all, it's a bigger island, obviously, Moku o Keawe and get plenty hunters, yeah, I mean like uncles on the wide. And it's...it's...it's very...it's very...it's very encouraging when you see kind of hilahila uncles who just have been fed up, and finally take the mic and say how they feel, you know. And it's...it's not always a really comfortable position, but it takes something like your food source being affected for these uncles to come out of the woods, and paniolos to come down to the meeting at night and to share their mind. And this...this...this outfit does not have a good reputation. And so I question. I...I will question Mayor Victorino myself as always. But I'm sorry that I don't know more about it. And that seems like quite a stretch. You know, they're...they're profiting. I'm disappointed that that allocation was made, but I do know that when you're Mayor, you have that prerogative to do that sometimes. So all I can provide.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So just clarify, you're not a proponent of the 200,000 allocation of CARES money to Kia, LLC, you would prefer it to be more community axis deer management, kind of spent that way?

MS. CHASE: Thank you for streamlining my response. Absolutely, I...I...definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. CHASE: I have --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. CHASE: -- objected to that allocation of using CARES money towards Kia, LLC.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Get it now. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Thank you very much for joining us this afternoon, Ms. Chase. We appreciate your comments.

MS. CHASE: A hui hou.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Chair, our next testifier is Warren Watanabe.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. WATANABE: Good afternoon, Chair Hokama and Members of the Committee. I'm Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau, testifying on item HFC-24, Feral Animal Management on Maui. We support a comprehensive management plan for ungulates throughout Maui County. A written testimony with further detail has been submitted, and I will summarize in the interest of time. As we are all aware, the axis deer population has increased dramatically over the years. Our farmers and ranchers are suffering huge financial impacts to their operations. As we speak of increased agricultural production, solutions to feral animals need to be addressed. Vegetables, flowers, livestock, fruits, and sod, factors that have been...have seen damage caused by feral ungulates. The environment is also at risk. We cannot afford an increasing population to remain unchecked. Hunting and fencing can be components of the plan. We need to work together to develop other ideas that will work for the community. Consultation with agencies knowledgeable about ungulates is critical to developing a successful management plan. All interested parties must be at the table, as this is a community issue that we all must work towards a solution. The future of our farms and ranches are at stake, and are willing to work and support the effort of a management plan. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your comments this afternoon, Mr. Watanabe. Questions of clarification for the gentleman? Ms. Sugimura? Okay, unmute.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Watanabe, for being here. So you're saying ungulate, and so are you also referencing swine, which is...

MR. WATANABE: Yes. Yes, I think we're all aware, you know, the deer and the swine are huge problems on Maui, and I guess through, you know, other areas of the State. They both pose a tremendous problem for our...for agriculture. You know, for the farmers, especially like in the ag park, as you're well aware, I mean some of the...like the sod farm, I mean, he's lost thousands of dollars due to the pigs. And so, you know, the...as we look to our developing a plan for the County, it needs to take into account all of these different types of feral animals. I mean, you have problems with other types of animals also. And...but I think a lot of the focus on the deer, and then with the increased population, I mean, you know, I hear it's, you know, almost just

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about all over Maui now. And so we need...really need to get a handle on this. And again, you know, I reiterate that our farms and our ranchers are a tremendous...they're very vulnerable right now.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Anyone else has a question for Mr. Watanabe? Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Watanabe, for your testimony today. And I just wanted to clarify, because you've been around in the ag industry for many, many years, are you aware that if there ever was a previous plan to deal with these feral ungulates?

MR. WATANABE: Well, I was on the committee several years ago, we did talk about it, and it was focused on axis deer. And at...we had many different interested parties on that...on that task force. Unfortunately, we did come...I believe we did come up...come with up...up with a recommendation, but there was no action taken. And I think that this is the critical part. You know, we're all aware of the issue, and so we need to really get into an implementation plan and start working on it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And so just to clarify, were you advocating to go back to that plan and implement it or update it? Was the plan that you were on, did that have implementing actions, or are you saying start from scratch?

MR. WATANABE: I think you need to start anew. And...and like I've mentioned, bringing the agencies like DLNR, you know, APHIS, and all of these different agencies, they do, I believe, have some data. And, you know, to me, that's a starting point. We need to know what actually the population really is and where they are located, and so we can, you know, put the resources there that...where the most critical need. And you...what I don't want to or what we don't want to see is that...that the problem becomes a big problem in the urban areas too. You know, we've...we've heard of incidences where you have vehicles, you know, hitting deer, hitting pigs. You know, that...that's a danger to the community as a whole, and that's why, you know, we feel that this really needs to be addressed. And again, you know, speaking from the...for the farmers and ranchers, you know, they suffer tremendous losses. And really, I think the County and the State needs to get...start a program and, you know, really look at how we're going to handle it. And you know, we...we are aware of, you know, concerns with the hunters that, you know, subsistence, it's a subsistence food, but that's why we're saying we need everybody at the table to come up and in agreement with a plan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much for the clarification. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Watanabe. Mahalo for your testimony.

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MR. WATANABE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I wanted to clarify your response to Member Paltin's question. So were you on the Maui axis deer group that submitted a draft plan in 2002? Is that the...the group that you were part of?

MR. WATANABE: Yes, I was. Yes, that's the group.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Mahalo for that clarification. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you for that question. Ms. Kama, do you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. I just wanted...I think it may have been answered, but I'll ask it nonetheless. So Mr. Watanabe, how long has the issue of the ungulates been a problem in Maui County? I mean, I'm...I heard it when I first got on Council about a year and a half ago, but how long has it been that we've been talking about needing this plan, and trying to bring people together, and now we're going to try to do it again?

MR. WATANABE: Oh, I...you know, it's been an issue like 20, 30 years. You know, and...and if...the issue has been brought to the attention of DLNR and other agencies. We've tried...we've worked with them, trying to come up with a solution. A lot of the...I think the issue too, is that the animals don't care where they are. They're on both public and private lands. And that's why, again, you need to work with the landowners. I know the ranchers have developed their own program, but I...you know, for the smaller farms and ranchers, you know, I mean, just to put up fencing, I mean, that costs a lot of money for them. And so...you know, and that's why I think the policy for the County is to see, again, looking at how you can mitigate. And again, and if we really do want to support agriculture, we need to look at, you know, reasonable solutions. And again, with the buy-in from the community because without that, I don't think a plan...the plan will go anywhere, frankly.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much. Anyone else has a question? Okay, having none. Thank you very much, Mr. Watanabe, for your written and oral testimony today. We appreciate your effort.

MR. WATANABE: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Milner, the next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is signed in as Mary Ann.

MS. PAHUKOA: Hi. Aloha, Councilmembers. Can you hear me?

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes we can.

MS. PAHUKOA: Testifying on agenda Item HFC-79 regarding the lease to Paia Youth Council. I heard earlier Auntie Mopsy testifying, so I'd like to echo her testimony and say that I would not support the lease to be granted to Paia Youth Center at this time without proper community consultation. I have a feeling that Maui County Council should truly help, I guess, these nonprofits and businesses kind of with the, let's just say, consultation process when it comes to these things. I think all nonprofits, especially if they're shoreline, should have some kind of cultural council that mediates decisions, big decisions like this. Within cultural council should be a lineal descendent. I think that would be a good solution to all of these issues when it comes to, you know, skipping a step in the process of getting things approved. If they did proper community consultation, and everything went okay, and they had great plans and use for the 3.39 acres they're asking for, then I'm sure that we wouldn't have a problem supporting the lease agreement because they are our youth, and we should support them. I see...and I hope they're listening...but I...I really see Paia Youth Center expanding to be kind of a head or a po'o of a foundation space for our country kids. That space, Paia Bay, is...it's unlike any other. And I really see the field between Paia Bay to what they call Baldwin, which is Kapukaulua, I see that field being a great Makahiki grounds space, especially in the Makahiki season that we're in. I think our children should have those opportunities to practice cultural games, open and closing of Makahiki season, including maybe an akule hale. There should be canoes there for days, you know, summertime when it's not so rough. But also, our kids need a safe place to hang out, kind of like a hub because majority of Paia Bay youth and Upcountry youth do surf. They surf all the time. And anyway, I do...I love things that Paia Youth Center does, and they do promote, you know, a safe...a safe home for these children who just want to live at the beach. But they do need to have better community consultation process and input. So I'd like to testify on that matter, asking for you to defer the grant of that lease. And then if I can, I'll move on to Feral Animal Management on Maui, HFC-24. And I testified to this Council in...I'm sorry. Can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can.

MS. PAHUKOA: I testified with this Council in the beginning of the years in regards to Kia, LLC. I overheard that there's a possible \$200,000 CARES grant that might be released to Kia, and I highly oppose and greatly oppose that. Being that this Council has the opportunity to create your own management, land and...or game and land management group, echoing what Faith said about KGLMO, Kawika Davidson and their club, which has a perfect safety record. It's clear that the members...the board members of KGLMO, Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana want to work with Maui County Council to create your own Maui game and land management ohana, which it's not hard to do. They have all the safety policies in place. Hunters need to be verified. They need to make sure that they are all...all their equipment is registered, unless you're bow hunting. They have all the safety measures in place. All the policy in place to do so, it's just a matter of waiting on the County to kind of create

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that group or hui because it seems like there's no...everyone that comes forward that wants to conduct these feral animal eradications is for-profit companies, which I need to remind the Council and just people that these animals belong to the people. It is not appropriate for an entity like Kia, LLC to come onto our lands, public lands or private lands, and just claim all the animals. And then not only claim them, but harvest them, and then package them, and resell them to the community. I do know they do give back a small portion, giving out free meat because they do have a mobile facility. But with that \$200,000, Maui County can...has the opportunity to get your own mobile facility. Not only that, but you can start the administration process to schedule our hunters access because access is everything. I was kind of appalled that Mayor Victorino, during the shutdown, kind of said...I can't quote him directly, but he was...he wasn't empowering our hunters, he was trying to tell them, I don't think you should go hunting at this time, which is a complete contradiction to what our families need right now, which is access to food. I have been...I haven't had assistance from government or anything for well over a year, and I wouldn't be able to feed my daughter it wasn't for these hunters and fishermen. Their main issue is access on Maui. And so I bring that...that issue, that light...I'll bring that dark light up because we don't see them on these meetings. Our hunters are not ones to speak, they're very humble beings. They don't know how to log into these kinds of things, but they can feed a family of ten or if not more if given the opportunity. So just echoing my last testimony, but I'm not sure if you can remember. I do...I do not...

CHAIR HOKAMA: You need to wrap up please.

MS. PAHUKOA: Okay. I do not support any CARES Act. I think the County Council has full capability within your fiduciary duty to make your own game and land management. I think that subsistence lifestyle is so important during this time, it should be a priority for Maui County to feed our families because these are invasives; however, they are a huge resource. And Maui County has the opportunity to be that kind of...be that example for other counties to implement, if you can properly schedule our hunters to access these lands. It is the kuleana of the ranches and the farms to make sure that they also hire or schedule their own hunters to manage their lands. Fences won't always work. If it's an eight --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. . . .*(audio interference)*. . .

MS. PAHUKOA: -- or ten-foot fence they might...thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. We need you...Mary Ann, we need you to state your name for the record please.

MS. PAHUKOA: Mary Ann Pahukoa.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. We appreciate that. Members, any questions for our testifier to clarify? Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Pahukoa, for your testimony

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today. I just wanted to clarify, so you're saying that the 200,000 of CARES money that went to Kia, LLC for the purchase of a venison processing and butcher facility, you would have prefer that to go to Kahikinui Game and Land Management so that they can distribute the resources? Not for profit.

MS. PAHUKOA: Right. Any...I would...I would prefer it to go to any nonprofit or game management hui who does not sell...commercialize the products. If Kahikinui...if KGLMO has all of their nonprofit things still in place, then I would highly recommend them. I'm not sure if they're still running because of the eviction from Kia, LLC into Kahikinui, which was last year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So any non...not-for-profit organization, rather than a for-profit?

MS. PAHUKOA: Yeah. It would be a dream to see Maui County create its own Maui game and land management ohana so that the funds can get dispersed to a group that can properly manage these feral animals--deer, goats, and pigs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much. Anyone else would like to ask a question for Ms. Pahukoa? Having none. Thank you very much for waiting, and being patient, and sharing your thoughts with us this afternoon. Mahalo.

MS. PAHUKOA: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Chair, our next testifier is Kawika Davidson.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Kawika, you're muted on your end, so I'm unable to unmute you. It seems there may be some technical difficulties. We'll come back. Our next testifier is Kyle Caires.

MR. CAIRES: Can you all hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can.

MR. CAIRES: Good afternoon, Chair and Members of the Committee. Thank you for discussing this important topic. And I can be a little longwinded, so I'll try and keep it more brief today. As you guys know. So I'm Dr. Kyle Caires. I'm with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, but I'm the Maui County Livestock Extension Agent here. And I'm also an independent rancher. I'm a Farm Bureau member. And one thing that's, I guess, pretty clear is the farmers and ranchers, myself included, are in favor of creating a comprehensive management plan for these feral ungulates through Maui

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County. I mean, if you talk to...it doesn't matter if you're talking to a farmer and rancher, particularly with the deer. You know, the herds are numbering in the tens of thousands. They are eating pastures clean. Even if you're using the best conservation and rotational grazing programs, really they're...they're ineffective. You're not getting productive animal weight gains. We can't maintain the range on health. Invasive species burst out of control. And you can't build soil health. About five axis deer effectively eat for one 1,200 pound mature weight cow, and that's actually quite staggering. So loss of production. You have...and that has accrued over a number of years, four to five years, and it's basically a snowball. If you rest your pastures, the deer will find the pastures you're resting, they'll eat all the fresh growth, that's where all the nutrition is. And it's basically a vicious cycle. Our farmers, regardless if they're on the ag park land or not, they've had huge crop losses. If they're growing food, if they're growing flowers, it doesn't matter, they seem to be equally affected. And I guess this isn't a problem that the County created. And I guess at the end of the day, I'm advocating for an integrated approach. And I'd volunteer my time to help, the committee is formed down the road. But we probably need a combination of fencing, like permanent and moveable electric 3D fences, some of those are pretty cost effective, along with, you know, management and in a form of conservation practices like hunting, trapping, and maybe even eradication. If you're coming up the Haleakalā Highway after about 10:00 p.m. you see the deer on the road. They're...luckily there aren't many accidents that are occurring because people in the...in those areas are cognizant of them, but it's just a matter of when, not if, right? They're on our parks. And the home range of these suckers is quite tremendous. There is a novel albino buck that I saw down in the central valley, and two weeks later I actually saw that same animal up in Haliimaile. I mean, that's a 12-mile...that's a 12-mile movement. And it's really tough because when some landowners put up a fence, a large fence, try to protect their own kuleana, the problem just shifts to another. The same thing happens with hunting. So all of those things are effective, but we probably need, you know, the physical, the cultural, as many integrated approaches as we can to tackle this problem. And the State probably needs to get involved. We did submit a grant, University of Hawai'i in collaboration with researchers in the Northwest U.S. to bring some funds to help devise an economic model, to figure out how these parasites, so to speak, are affecting agricultural production. But there's...there's also some intrinsic value that they could provide. I'm welcome to being a part of the conversation down the road. And I'll take any questions if you have it. I apologize for my unorganized behavior. I literally just finished off at a local ranch.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, I thought you did quite well, Dr. Caires. Your candidness is quite refreshing, and we appreciate the time that you share with us. So thank you for sharing your concerns. And of course, we know how much you care about your community. Mr. Molina, you have a question for Dr. Caires?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Dr. Caires. And I know you spent a good portion of your life on the mainland and of course, you have your PhD. And where...you know, now that the electorate has passed the Department of Agriculture for the County of Maui, what role do you see our new Department of Agriculture will have in establishing a feral management plan and

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policies and so forth? Any thoughts?

MR. CAIRES: Oh, that might be above my paygrade. But I think the Department of Ag, on the County level, could help really be that facilitator to bring in...bring in stakeholders. I mean, you got to...I mean from a basic...from a very basic standpoint, you have to have the...the farmers and ranchers and the landowners onboard. You got to bring in, you know, DOFAW, probably DLNR, and the other allied industry organizations, right? To come together and not just meet for the sake of meeting but, you know, identify...identify what is, and what can be, and how do we get there. And then the hardest thing is putting a pencil to it all and where it's going to come from. But I think the Department of Ag might be very useful as that facilitator for...for at least initiating that contact. The soil and water conservation districts...unfortunately, this is kind of like a...a doo-doo sandwich, and the only way to make it less worse is to throw some bread at it. And with these deer devastating so much of the available land mass, invasive species are really, really proliferating. The deer are able to eat and pass some of those seeds. So I mean, there are some weeds now in Kula that were restricted to only Kaupo and Kahikinui. I mean, so department...the...the watershed partnerships should probably be involved as well, you know, in terms of how they...how those ungulates damage like, you know, our koa forests. There's so many stakeholders here and there's so much, you know, economic, but also cultural value entwined with how these creatures are affecting our lives.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Great. Well, thank you for those wonderful responses. And including the doo-doo sandwich, that was something I'd never heard before, but...

MR. CAIRES: I apologize, I'm...I'm kind of...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, no apologies necessary. And...and certainly, the...your responses were not above your paygrade at all. You were definitely right on it. So thank you, Dr. Caires. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. CAIRES: The other thing I might add too, is like for example, I have a small pasture in Kula, and it's about 25 acres, and that pasture should comfortably hold between 10 and 12 cows. And you know, that cow would include that calf for six to seven months out of the year. Right now, even using some of the best grazing management and supplemental feed with mineral, I have three cows in there, and I just put a bull in there actually yesterday. The...the cost to...if I were to keep the level of production of that land with what it should be able to carry, even in a drought year, I'm looking at about 22 to \$30 per day for each one of those animal unit pairs. So I can choose either spend \$210 a day to get the production that I would get off that same land, or in this case, depopulate. Now I've lost my opportunity cost, you know, I've...I've lost that, you know, that potential production. And even with down...downsizing that herd and that particular unit, I'm still incurring about \$210 a month of supplemental feeding. So these...these deer in particular are really, really causing some problems. As you start moving from Kula...and they're affected by pigs too. As you start moving from Kula heading towards Kailua, you know, Keanae, deep Ha'ikū in the upper slopes, the pigs are having a much larger impact. We have the...actually, thanks to a lot of your

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guy's support as well, the Haleakalā livestock...or the Haleakalā research station is being put back as a productive livestock station to basically do the guesswork for our ranchers, whether it be planting crops for feed and whatnot. And we got devastated by wild pig damage, and they took out literally three-quarters of an acre in less than 24 hours. The...the planting cost and the last...the lost yield runs about \$9,000 per acre, without any inputs past the planting of the seed. So I mean, you can imagine if you're in actual commercial agriculture how...how that could hit you so bad. But I really...I mean, the fact that you guys are even talking about this, that's...that's a big step forward.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much for those comments, Dr. Caires. Anyone else has another question for the gentleman? Yes, Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Dr. Caires, thank you very much for your...all your good work. I'm just curious, for Central Maui, how bad is it? I think one of the items that we have is the YMCA is going to plant a...do an ag section down in Central Maui, and I was just wondering, are there...are there axis deer in that area at the...at the YMCA down by the Keopuolani Park? Maybe he logged off.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Going to need to unmute please.

MR. CAIRES: Can you guys hear me?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, now I can hear you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. We can hear you now.

MR. CAIRES: Okay, cool. Yeah, there's been...there's been deer sighting down at Keopuolani Park, in that area. And actually, what's kind of disturbing to me is even if you go past that...if you go to Camp Maluhia and you're there after 4:30, 5:00, and like sometimes I'm helping work cows out there with ranchers, you can hear the bugling. And two years ago was the first time I heard it, and now the voices are louder and there's more calls. So those suckers are spreading. So I would imagine that could be...that could be an issue. But really . . . *(audio interference)* . . . Maui fire situation last year and this year, in those different spots. Basically those...those deer just move to where the food was, yeah? A lot of them went Upcountry. Some of them...their...their home range extended, their...their tenancy shifted from that central valley, especially where they've been, you know, fenced out. And they'll find a way. I mean, Kaonoulou Ranch, Haleakalā Ranch, I mean, you see herds that were in the...the hundreds, now you can't count them anymore. So they'll shift. And I have no doubt if this continues to happen, they'll...they'll shift more and more into the residential. We're already seeing it Upcountry and in Ha'ikū. You know, I...where I was at prior to returning home to Maui for this job, we actually had some researchers that were focusing on...they had a lot of grants of certain species you can plant that would encourage deer to veer away. Not like oleander . . . *(audio interference)* . . . that had certain odorant characteristics. And some of that research is probably worth doing, but it appears our axis deer adapt and aren't nearly as bothered by some of those scents as the white tail deer in the

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mainland are. So you know, some of the other things, like planting mums and using Milorganite as like a...an input that you could actually put out there and have the deer run away from, that's...that's not the case. And it's probably also due to some of the vog that we've had because some of those emit like a sulphury odorant compound, and it seems like it doesn't bother our deer very much either. So we just got to paddle the canoe in the same direction when those meeting occur down the road, and try and wipe these suckers out in a responsible manner.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Dr. Caires. And thank you for volunteering to be on this management assessment group. Thank you very much. We appreciate you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. I'll have --

MR. CAIRES: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- Ms. Paltin with the last clarification. We're really getting into the discussion of the item. Okay. We need to wrap up testimony, Members, please. Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Dr. Caires. My question was just because you're a rancher and...and a doctor, I just wanted to clarify, would it not be a thing that folks that raise...sorry if it's a stupid question, but is it something that folks that raise cows, cattle, can also process deer for consumption? Or is it not USDA allowed because it's wild or something? Or would it compete --

MR. CAIRES: Okay. Yeah, that's a...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- with the cattle market?

MR. CAIRES: Yeah, I...I think I get what you're saying. Yeah, so for processing those animals would have to be...for processing and sale I should say, those animals would have to be USDA inspected. And you know, sporadically here and there, yeah, cattlemen are helping to reduce the...the load on their own pastures. Like myself...I guess I'll use myself as an example. I haven't hunted in over two years. And it's not that I don't like doing it, it's just that I don't have the time. Like, a lot of my hobbies seem to be ancient now. But I've let three different hunters, and they're very responsible, come onto the property with a bow. And almost three years ago, I had a head count of 53...53 head of deer on that property. And after...they've hunted extensively on that property and taken animals out. Now, three years later, there's 58. So you know, these things have no natural predators. Sorry, it's just one of those...it's like trying to uncook an egg without, like, a comprehensive plan or solution. These...these suckers are...they're extremely prolific. There's...like I said, there's no natural predators. And because of our unique climate and the fact that they can shift from microclimate to microclimate and follow the feed, making use of the ahupua'a probably better than any other cloven-hoofed animal here, their fecundity is unparalleled. But yeah, I think from the standpoint of like cost recovery, venison offers some economic value, it can help feed the people. But again, trying to figure out

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the right balance between, you know, conservation, processing, eradication, and then also exclusion via fencing, that's a...that's a tough one.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We look forward to your participation in the future, Dr. Caires. This is not...yeah, yeah. Again, obviously the discussion that's going on, Doctor, has just shown the impact, yeah, that this issue has Countywide. So we appreciate your comments this afternoon.

MR. CAIRES: And I appreciate you guys because quite frankly, a lot of what I do here is funded indirectly or directly through you guys. I work with these farmers and ranchers, and if it wasn't for you guys, I'm dead in the water. So let me know how I can help.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh, thank you. Again, we...you can be assured you will be called on, Dr. Caires. And we hope that, yeah, one, your employer, the State of Hawai'i, would support their Department of Land and Natural Resources to do their job better than they currently are. Because they used to do a pretty decent job. Because I can tell Ms. Kama, for me, we've been talking about ungulates since the late '70s. Okay. So for me, this is like 50 years old, this is nothing new about impact of feral animals. And like I said, Lāna'i, we chose to eradicate feral goats because of the damage to the watershed and the island, besides the deer and the sheep. So Dr. Caires is absolutely correct, the State needs to be at the table. They need to participate. They need to provide protection to private property owners, to do a complete comprehensive program to be implemented. Or like Dr. Caires said, the deer breeds twice a year, they got brains, and they're going to go where there's no pressure, and more than likely that'll be urban areas.

MR. CAIRES: And fingers crossed, hopefully we can get those Federal funds to, you know, at least drive the economic pool.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Well, I won't wait for...hold my breath on that one, Dr. Caires. But thank you for your time this afternoon. And if you are available when we discuss it a little bit further on in the meeting, we'd be happy to designate you as a resource person, Dr. Caires. So thank you. Lesley, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Chair, the last person signed up to testify is Kawika.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: They are still muted on their end, and I cannot unmute them.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Kawika, when you're ready. Do we still have connection with them?

MS. MILNER: Yes, they're still on the meeting list, but they are muted and don't seem to be unmuting themselves.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Kawika, if you could use the message component if you're having technical difficulties, maybe we can assist you. And the Chair will also at this time ask if there's anyone else that would like to give comment to the Committee this afternoon on our agenda, please make yourself known, and we'll be happy to provide your opportunity.

MS. MILNER: Just as a reminder, the microphone control is at the top of your screen. Or I believe in BlueJeans, you can also hit the "M" key and mute and unmute yourself. Chair, I don't believe we have any more testifiers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Milner. Members, we also received written testimony. So with no objection, we'll accept that for today's meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KK)

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Seeing no objections. We'll accept written testimony sent to the Committee for today's agenda. And with no further requests, Members, we'll officially close the testimony portion for today's meeting. So thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KK)

CHAIR HOKAMA: So ordered.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

ITEM HFC-79: AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF A LEASE OF COUNTY RECREATIONAL SPACE TO PAIA YOUTH COUNCIL, INC. (CC 20-559)

CHAIR HOKAMA: Let me please quickly directly you to HFC-79. This is under the heading of Authorizing a Grant of a Lease of County Recreational Space to Paia Youth Council, Inc., HFC-79. And we have received a communication 20-559, from the Director of Parks and Recreation, with a proposed resolution entitled, "AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF A LEASE OF COUNTY RECREATIONAL SPACE TO PAIA YOUTH COUNCIL, INC." And as we agendized, this is a grant for a lease of 3.39 acres of County land located at Paia, Maui, Hawai'i, at a rental rate of \$1 per year, for a period ending April 30th, 2071. This afternoon, before the Committee presents their comments or questions, we'll ask first Ms. Karla Peters or our Deputy Mary Kielty if they have any opening comments for the Committee regarding the proposal. And then after that, we'll ask Ms. Susun White of the youth center to give us her comments and presentation. Director Peters?

MS. PETERS: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair. Good afternoon, Committee Members. We hope you had a great Thanksgiving weekend. We're here today, the Department has transmitted the proposed resolution for the revisions to the Paia Youth Council's existing lease agreement. At this time I'd like to highlight some of the...of these revisions. For the term, they're requesting for an additional 20 years. The current

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lease right now commenced on April 6th, 2016 through April 30th, 2051. The date of execution for the proposed new lease would be through April 30th, 2071. For the premises, the Paia Youth Council is requesting for a new lease that adds approximately 2.47 acres to TMK 2-5-005, and a portion of parcel 17. The annual rent, there is no change to those terms in this current proposed lease. As far as the use of the premises, it's going to be drop-in youth center--this is a new proposed revision--a drop-in youth center for ages 9 through 18, young adult mentoring program for alumni ages 18 through 21, life skills programs and skate park for all ages, a canoe hale for all ages, a hula halau for all ages, a movement arts center for all ages, and instruction in Hawaiian language for all ages. And additional items that we did add to the proposed lease agreement are also as follows. We added some access requirement information from the Department of Environmental Management in regards to the area surrounding the Paia wastewater pump station. The Paia Youth Council lessee is to provide designated pathways for unlimited safe public access to the shoreline. The lessee shall also have permanent parking adequate for program needs at the new location. And all new construction or renovation shall obtain all required permitting. We have Executive Director Susun White, who's also on the call today, and she'll be giving a presentation to you all of their programming. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much. Members, any quick questions needed for the Department at this time? Yes, Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hi. I...I...I...you might have heard the testifier. So have you had community meetings yet about this from the Department, just to get a feel for what the community is thinking?

MS. PETERS: Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Peters?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sugimura. So as part of the Baldwin Beach Park master plan, which is located on the County website, we had an advisory committee, as well as on that conceptual plan, there is a designated area in which it's showing that proposed expansion of the lease. So the actual lease and what the lessee is proposing to do was not presented at that time. It was we were not sure of what they were going to construct. And I think at this time, they're still in that conceptual plan. So it is designated in the...the Baldwin Beach Park conceptual plan, which I...again, I say is on the website for everyone to review. And right now, I can give you an update on that since we're talking about that because that'll probably be a question that'll come up. Right now, the...we're in the technical studies phase of that Baldwin Beach Park master plan. So we're doing a cultural assessment, as well as some environmental and engineering studies. So once we get that together, we're going to come back out to the community, have more community meetings. I believe the initial conceptual plan had three community meetings, as well as their advisory committee. So they're very active, I believe, in the community...I attended the last one that was at the Paia Community Center. It was very well attended. And we were able to provide

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the community with some input as far as the Baldwin Beach Park master plan. So for the youth center expansion, it's shown on that plan, but it was not discussed in detail. At that time we were unsure of what it was going to resolve to. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering, based on your response to Member Sugimura, would your opinion that this is going kind of piecemeal if we grant the lease prior to the Baldwin Beach plan being finished? Because then there's not another chance for input, it would kind of be like a done deal already.

MS. PETERS: It's...the area is designated on the conceptual master plan. I believe if it be the will of the Committee today to defer the item and take it back to the community, we can work with the lessee to do that. But it is defined in the plan. It is laid out in the master plan. And it, you know, it's pretty well...it was a pretty well done conceptual plan. So I don't believe that that portion will affect what we're looking at doing at Baldwin Beach Park. I think it may enhance the area because right now, it's just all undeveloped property. So for the...but we would be willing to go back out with the Executive Director and the Paia Youth Council and share it with the community if so desired.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So just to clarify, the acreage and the boundaries were laid out in the conceptual plan. And that has not changed, it's just filling in the details now?

MS. PETERS: Yes, Member Paltin, you are correct. It's dashed out in the master plan, showing the existing parcel that's leased and then that expansion portion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you for the clarification. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director Peters.

MS. PETERS: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: My question is on page 5, construction of new buildings by lessee. It says in the event lessee wishes to construct new or additional buildings, or renovate structures, must obtain all required permits and have the approval. Is that approval by the Director?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Peters?

MS. PETERS: Sorry, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So they would need approval from all required agencies before we would be able to say they could proceed

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with any type of renovation or new construction. So any...all required permits have to be approved prior to the Department making that approval to move forward.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So to...to clarify, if there are plans to construct new buildings, they wouldn't need to first get approval from you as the Department Director or Council, they would just...they...they have that approval, and they just need to get the permits for it?

MS. PETERS: Sorry, I can clarify better. So what typically happens with our lessees is they are to write...they are to send...submit in writing their proposal of what they're going to do on the property, as well as get those required permits. And at the time that the required permits are submitted to our Department for review by all of our divisions to ensure that they are properly constructing their improvements or the new renovation within that proposed space, and it doesn't affect anything that the...that the Department is doing at that time, then we would recommend approval to the lessee.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification, Director Peters. So I didn't look at the Paia master plan, but is it your understanding that there is an intention to construct a new building on that parcel mauka of where they are currently?

MS. PETERS: Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Director? And just so...for the Members' information, yeah, right after this portion, the...Ms. White will be presenting...yes, Ms. White will be making a presentation to you. So she may be able to give you more information shortly, Members. Director Peters?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So when we were first approached by Ms. White from the Paia Youth Council, they were wanting to expand their property to be able to build a new building and bring it mauka. Knowing that they were in the shoreline area there with their existing building and with sea level rise and climate change, they acknowledged the fact that they would have to move mauka. So this would...expansion area would allow them to build a new building, as well as the increase in the term of the lease would allow them to get capital funding for this improvement.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else for Director at this time? Okay. Thank you, Director Peters. I'm going to ask at this time, Members, Ms. Susun White, who is the Executive Director of Paia Youth & Cultural Center if she would please join us now. And Members, you should have, as part of the Granicus component, their

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presentation dated November 27. Ms. White, can you hear us? If you can join us. Yeah, I see you. I see you.

MS. WHITE: Can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. WHITE: Great.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So you...start your presentation for us please.

MS. WHITE: Okay. Well, I'd like to begin with thanking all of you for having this opportunity. And I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I wanted to begin with a little slide showing a video, just to bring to everybody's awareness what our programs are, where we're at right now, and just a little hint...hint of where we want to go in the future. And then after that, I will add some more to the discussion to that. So we'll start the slideshow first.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Can you see that on your screen?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. Is there no sound?

MS. WHITE: No sound. No sound.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not sure how to share sound. Want me to just pause it real quick?

MS. WHITE: Yeah, pause it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MS. WHITE: Hang on. We're trying to figure out how to get the sound on.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. WHITE: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can hear you speak, but...let me just open up...

MS. WHITE: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So...

MS. WHITE: Okay. We're getting there. Thank you. There we go.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You hear the sound?

MS. WHITE: No.

. . .*(start video presentation)*. . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not hearing sound at all?

MS. WHITE: No sound.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There was some sound.

MS. WHITE: There's some sound.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, you're hearing the video sound?

MS. WHITE: Are you hearing the video sound?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's just music. That's just music. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Susun, if you can hear, maybe you can give us some background comments.

MS. WHITE: Oh, okay. Because there's no sound. Unfortunately, there was sound to this, but anyway. Okay. This is the Paia Bay Café, and they're in there preparing a meal. And we have a daily cooking class there, where we prepare meals for anywhere between 25 and 30 youth. And the youth are allowed to help in the kitchen and do other tasks around the youth center to pay for food. And if they can't, then it's \$2 a meal. And we try to make everything mostly organic. And probably the best deal in the State of Hawai'i, but that's the café. This is our StoneWave Skate Park, and we're the only skate park in Maui County that has an adult monitor at all times. And it is all ages. And because of the adult monitor, we do have a lot of younger children come to the park. Anybody under eight years old, their guardian or parent has to be with them at all times. But because of that, the families are now more active at the youth center. This is our Malama Pono Project Venture and Hero Project, which are both best practices and culturally based. And they go out in nature a lot, they have challenges. We certify youth in CERT disaster preparedness and a lot of incredible opportunities. Take them places on Maui that they would normally not get to go, like Iao Valley. So they do a lot of service work in both of those programs, and most of it is culturally based, helping out with taro plants, fields, and whatnot. This is sunset at the youth center. I wish you could hear the sound because the kids are cheering. And that's it.

. . .*(end video presentation)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Yeah, I'm sorry we couldn't hear your sound, but that was a great video, so thank you. And...and we also have the handout available.

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MS. WHITE: Right. Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So thank you for that.

MS. WHITE: Right.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Any other comments, Ms. White, at this time you'd like to share with the Committee before I open it up?

MS. WHITE: Yeah. I would like to say myself more. Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure. We're welcome to hear your comments.

MS. WHITE: Okay. It was...became obvious about five or more years ago that we were going to have to have a new building because our current building is very, very old, and can no longer withstand the ocean and the environment here, nor were we allowed when I went to Planning Department to expand on our current location. That was the original desire. So after meeting first with the Planning Department multiple times, and Tara Owens, who's head of the Sea Grant and coastal erosion, was made the determination that in the location that is in the master plan for Baldwin Beach, that we could build a new building there and it would still even be permitted, hopefully even with the 100-year projections for sea level rising. So all of those factors were taken into consideration. We're also extremely aware of the community, and we are a community-based organization, and want to remain the safest place in the community for not only our children, but even our adult members and ohana, country ohana, Paia ohana, North Shore ohana. And that's what we are right now. So saying that, we don't have any design plans yet. We have recently hired an architect, with an anonymous donor giving us money to do that. But the plans are, I can tell you, is that we are not going to build an ugly building that's...sticks out like a sore thumb there. It's going to be a home just like the current one, and have a home-like atmosphere for our kids because that's what they want. And it will, like Karla said, have its own parking. The master plan for Baldwin Beach does have within it enough area for parking. And we are actually adding on 2...2.47 more acres to our current lease, and with the...the intention of having the new building and holding, in the future, some new camps...leadership camps in the area. This expansion will also allow for us, which we wanted to do for many, many, many years, have a canoe hale here. And we would love to have a hula halau. We had one when I first started here, and then just didn't have the space, and the woman who led the halau, she had to leave. So...and become more open in that. And also, provide a place for movement arts that are budget based so that people in the community can afford it versus spending 20 bucks a class. And also a place for Hawaiian language, which has been asked of us. We are extremely well known in the community. We average between 400 and 450 youth a year between the ages of 9 and 18 years old. Right now, even in COVID, not even halfway through our fiscal year, we have 255 members, and a lot of them are new members between fourth and seventh graders. So I...I don't know, I talked to a lot of people, so as my...especially my board member Lisa Starr, who you...spoke to you

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earlier. We've spoken to Kalani English, Lynn DeCoite, a lot, a lot of community members about this. So this is where we're at. And we really need to have a lease, like Karla mentioned, before I can start...or we can, our board, a capital campaign because due to our location and be a major SMA, and we also want to build this to be a shelter with FEMA standards, it's going take a bit of money. So I think that's all I have right now.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you for that, Ms. White. So we'll ask, of course, you to be the resource person for your...your center and then be available for questions. So before I ask the Members for their questions, a couple...a few quick ones for Parks Director Peters, please. I went through the proposal of the lease. And did you get any comments from Planning Department regarding any concerns they may have with the shoreline sea level rise issues, and whether or not they were going to consider proposing the area to either be a retreated area or a hardening area? Because we know that the Members are aware that this is within a FEMA flood zone designated area. So you have any comments you can share with us, Director?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for that question. Right now, the Department is in a vulnerability study. We have a consultant, and we're looking at all of our beach park and coastal properties. So that will be able to help us best...or identify the adaption strategies in each of the areas. We had not consulted with the Planning Department. I believe Ms. White did say that she did meet with Tara Owens to discuss what they were proposing. But at this time, we have not discussed this project with the Planning Department.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. No, no, we appreciate that. Yeah, because I'm also concerned about...that we're supposed to have a linear area of parking along the highway, yeah, regarding the park...Baldwin Park plan area. So that was one of my concerns. Do you have a current topo map of the proposed site?

MS. WHITE: Was that question for me?

MS. PETERS: Chair?

MS. WHITE: Oh.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Director, does the Department currently have topo maps of the...the parks areas, like Baldwin?

MS. PETERS: Chair, we had a...sorry, yes, there's a survey and a topo map that Ms. White provided as part of their application.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Great. Did we receive that, Ms. Milner, the topo? Did you send that to us, Ms. Peters, the topo? And does that include the most current certified shoreline from the State of Hawai'i?

MS. PETERS: Chair, I'll have to go look at my files and...and send it to you if it wasn't

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included in that package.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. We would like the certified shoreline from the State of Hawai'i. And if you can tell us what was the change from the previous certification, whether it was a...they're a net loss of the beachfront properties or a net gain, we'd be curious. And then the topo, since that will be one of the factors regarding this...the decision on the lease.

MS. PETERS: Yes, Chair, we'll provide that to the Committee.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Ms. Sugimura, any questions for Ms. White at this time or the Department regarding the proposal?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Along Hāna Highway, the State Department of Transportation recently put up...and I got...I got Facebook as well as email messages, they put up no parking all along Baldwin...Hāna Highway in front of Baldwin Beach Park. And I guess the community is concerned about use...oh, everybody used to park there, I guess it's supposed to...it was supposed to be illegal, but now that the signs went up, the community is concerned about parking when it...the beach park is used. So I wonder what the Department is doing about that? And this is like a new development, the no parking signs on Hāna Highway.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Director Peters?

MS. PETERS: Chair? Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sugimura. So right now, we're in the permitting phase for the improvements to the lower Paia Park parking lot. That is the parking lot that fronts...currently fronts the youth center. That should be able to give us about 55 designated stalls. If you're not aware, that parking lot is just an undeveloped with no markings, no striping of stalls, and there's no ADA access to the park. So we're hoping that with that improvements done, it will help provide some parking at that area, as well as once we move into the Baldwin Beach Park master plan implementation, we'll be able to provide more parking there. Also, the municipal lots is available, and that might be somewhere where we could possibly look for expansion. We're also looking at maybe possibly some area fronting Baldwin where it was cleared to be able to provide some interim parking, although we would need to do more assessments to ensure that we can safely have pedestrians and vehicles in those areas. So more assessments will be coming, but for sure, the lower Paia Park parking lot improvements like Auntie Mopsy had mentioned, those have been funded and are currently in permitting. And we hope to get construction started within the beginning of 2021.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So last question, Chair, if I could. So the...still sticking with parking. With what you just described, is that going to replace the parking that people are used to parking on Hāna Highway?

MS. PETERS: I don't think...thank you, Chair. And thank you, Member Sugimura. I don't believe it's going to replace all of that parking, but we're trying to help alleviate some of

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the concerns and provide additional stalls that are clearly designated, marked, and has some accessibility so we can safely have people traversing through the property, as well as parking. So it's...it's a Countywide effort, along with the State, that we're trying to work on to mitigate through this whole parking issue on...in front of Baldwin and the lower Paia Park.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I wonder at the appropriate time if you could provide a map? I'm sorry. I don't know the...I kind of know the general area. but not as in detailed as you're talking about. So thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Let's see, yeah, let's go from the other way now. We'll go with Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. and then move up the Committee that way.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I have several maps that I can share screen if...if Members would like to see it. I have the Baldwin Beach Park master plan that includes the 2019 shoreline setback, if the Committee would like to see that. If...it wasn't...it's not on Granicus, I Googled it. But I...I can share that so that everyone has kind of a better idea what it is that we're, you know, like looking at.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Go ahead. Go ahead, Keani.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, I'll share it. Okay. Mahalo, Chair. Okay. Does everyone see it okay? Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Kind of small. Can you increase it a little bit so we can see --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- the map? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's the wrong one. There. Do you see it okay?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Absolutely. Wonderful. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So that...that is the...the pink dotted square is the potential future site, and this red line or pink-red line is the shoreline setback, and it has in parenthesis unofficial. And this is from 2019. It's that pink line that goes across the shoreline there. So that's the shoreline setback. There isn't a...projected erosion with sea level rise, 3.2 feet, is this green one here that's much more inland. And it goes about to the corner of where that pink dotted line for the future...well, potential future site. So you can see it, it goes all the way up to the parking lot, and it completely swallows up the old...or the current site and the skate park. You can see all of that. There. Okay. And...stop sharing.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, that was very helpful because I think that is Planning [sic] Department's Plan A, I think, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I think that is their Plan A

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for the...is that correct, Director Peters, is that your Plan A, what we was looking at?

MS. PETERS: Chair, that is the final conceptual master plan that you were looking at, based off of the consultant's projections. And thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, for sharing that screen for us.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, that was helpful. That was helpful. Okay. Any other questions at this time, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And I didn't see a topo map, but I did do a Google Earth map if Members would like to see that because I...it was kind of helpful for me. Need to share it if Members would like to...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh, great. Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So we get one sense.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Okay. Can Members see that? Okay. Okay. So that's the...

CHAIR HOKAMA: That's the current area.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And the beach. And so...be about here. And that's the...the pump station. And I'm...I'm happy to zoom in, Chair, if you want to see anything closer or move anywhere.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, it just makes me know that we're going to need a lot of discussion on what would be smart and safe adjusted setbacks from the shoreline. Again, depending on slope and grade and the topography readings, you know, maybe certain flat areas we got to look at 150, 300-foot setbacks. Again, you know, we're going to need...we'll be dealing with facts and, you know, verified information, Members. But I appreciate that Google perspective, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Do you have a question either for Ms. White or Director Peters at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo, Chair. A quick question. So in looking at the satellite imagery...imaging of the area, it looks like there's like a gulch in that area...a ravine or a ditch, you know. I can share my screen again if...if you don't know where I'm talking about. Okay, I'll show my screen. So right here. This area --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. White, if...

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- where there's more vegetation. There's like a lot of vegetation there. Is that like a gulch?

MS. WHITE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I guess that goes along the same lines as what Chair's asking about topography because the elevations in this area, it looks flat here. But where there's more vegetation, it looks like it --

CHAIR HOKAMA: It might be lower.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you know, it...it...it drops off. Yeah.

MS. WHITE: I can tell you what that is.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Great. Ms. White?

MS. WHITE: That is a berm, a manmade berm made by HC&S. Because if you look mauka side of that where the vegetation area is, which is the berm, that used to be cane fields. And so that's a manmade berm, it's not a gulch.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Interesting.

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Paltin, a question for Director Peters or Ms. White please?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is it okay to have one of each?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Director Peters, in the Baldwin concept...Beach Park conceptual Plan A, on the most left-hand side, where it says sand berm with...restoration with native vegetation and the pavilion right next to that. Is that the existing pavilion, or is everything on here conceptual in the future?

MS. PETERS: Chair? Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So there is existing features shown on the master plan, and it states existing. And then everything else is what's going to be...or part of that conceptual plan. So it designates the existing restroom and pavilion and the Rinza Mission.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I'm just trying to get my bearings.

MS. PETERS: And then also...oh.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Go ahead.

MS. PETERS: Sorry. So we are working with the Planning Department on a dune restoration project with Tara Owens. So I just wanted to mention that too. So that's going to help mitigate some of the coastal erosion and effects that we're seeing right now as an interim measure until we can get this master plan implemented. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Director Peters. Thank you, Ms. White, for your presentation. I love the job you guys are doing. I wish I could drop my kids off at Paia Youth Center. I just was wondering, you know, the 3.2 is...sea level rise is based on like, you know, the best available science right now. And...and I'm not sure that I would have predicted, you know, the pavilion falling in the water and...and the shower that used to be more out falling in the water ever. And I just was wondering, you know, is that your first choice, or if there was something more inland, are you open to that? And...and if you did want it, and you were going to build things there, were...were they going to be on like stilts?

MS. WHITE: Okay. Yes, that is our first choice, and we don't really want to go inland because part of the allure, and I think a lot of our success, especially in a number of our programs, is being on the beach or close to the ocean. I also think that the youth of the North Shore deserve to have a place that they can call their own on the North Shore that's on the beach. The house will be a pole house on stilts because it'll have to be, it's part of the major SMA. And I forgot what I was going to say, but.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think you answered my question.

MS. WHITE: Oh, consideration. As far as the erosion, been studying that for...for a long, long time, and we...the Paia Youth & Cultural Center, we're the first ones, with the assistance of Tara Owens, to plant all of the dunes between Baby Park Paia all the way down to past our skate park. Before we planted those dunes, the youth center used to get flooded by the ocean at least twice a year. It hasn't since, so that does work. Also, if you study the erosion of this area, Paia Bay--which is really interesting actually--Paia Bay has some of the least erosion of any of the beaches. Baldwin's different, and some...some of that is because of the lime kiln and the manmade feature down there that created the erosion. So that's all been taken into consideration. So I've been here 27 years, I've seen very little erosion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And just to follow up on the...the pole house. Would you be making it so that in case if it needed to, to be able to pull back in the future if...if necessary? Like, temporary permanent.

MS. WHITE: I never considered that, but I know that the Montana Beach House that used to be located down there at Baldwin Beach was a pole house, and it was up for relocation. I don't know, you know, it's...we're looking at even with the sea level rising predictions, if they hold true to the worst-case scenario, it'll be over 100 years from now. I don't know, it's all based on predictions and all that. But pole houses

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fortunately--so that's a great question--can be moved.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair, for my opportunity. Thank you, Ms. White, for everything you do.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Molina, question...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Chair. Yeah. I have questions for both Director and Ms. White. I'll start off first with, I guess, Director Peters. I guess historically, who built the...the building, the existing building, and how old is it?

MS. WHITE: I should probably take that question.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, okay. Oh, Susun...for Susun then.

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, thank you, Member Molina. I'm going to defer to Ms. White.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. WHITE: The original house was built by HC...A&B Properties, and it was for the foreman of the mill. And there was actually four houses down here, ours is the only one remaining. So it was built in...date mixed up, but in the early 1930s. Real...it's old. And so then after...it was rented out for a while to Doris Todd School for their summertime day camps and programs, and not used during the...a lot of the time. And about 27 years ago, right before I came on, there was a fire in the upstairs dorm. It was a dormitory then where the kids used to sleep. And A&B Properties was going to condemn the building because of that. They did not because a group of Paia youth, with Brian McCafferty leading the cause, lobbied A&B Properties, and they decided that they would let it become a youth center. So we were...they were our landlords up until 2015, 2016, and then when the A&B Properties gave the land between Baldwin Beach to...to Paia Bay to Maui County, that's when we became under Maui...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, great. And for you again, Susun, the...your insurance rates you're currently paying right now because of the shoreline erosion and...and I guess where...where it's located, have you been paying higher premiums now?

MS. WHITE: No. We are paying, actually this year, less premiums. We got accepted into a group called the Nonprofits Allegiance [sic] Insurance, and you have to have...go through certain protocols to be accepted by them. And our insurance went down substantially, not only for our...our...we...we upped our building insurance and contents insurance because it was a reduced rate, but it also went down substantially for our...our...which are considered high-risk activities with kids, skate park, we have to get insurance, and our ocean because we do ocean activities. And so the insurance went way down for that too. We were fortunate.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Great. Final question, so the condition-wise of the

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building, I mean, any major termite damage? I mean, it's still serviceable, at least for a number of years?

MS. WHITE: It's serviceable for a number of years. I mean, we've put...I could give you the exact numbers, but we've put in, since I've been here, over \$600,000 into this building. We renovated the upstairs. We've done a lot of maintenance, incredible...that includes the skate park and that cost us about 90,000, so that includes that. So yeah, but we've kept it, you know, safe and want to keep it going for as long as we can, so.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, great. Thank you for your responses.

MS. WHITE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. WHITE: Thank you. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh, I cannot...what happened? I can't hear her.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, I'm back. Good?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, you're....you're all --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- good.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So I...I have a question for Director Peters. Earlier it was mentioned that with the...with the improvements that you would be able to get...at least the center would be able to get 55 extra parking stalls that would...could be made available. Do you know when they would be available?

MS. PETERS: Chair? Thank you, Member...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Director?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Member Kama. So for the lower Paia Park parking lot --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. PETERS: -- improvements, we were anticipating 55 stalls for that project. And --

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MS. PETERS: -- as part of the youth center lease --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MS. PETERS: -- agreement, they...they do not have exclusive use of that parking. So it is --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

MS. PETERS: -- for public parking.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. PETERS: In the new proposed lease agreement, they would provide or construct their own dedicated parking for their program needs.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But the 55 would be the County's?

MS. PETERS: Chair, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So what would that...so when is that going to happen?

MS. PETERS: So right now we're in the permitting phase and we hope to --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MS. PETERS: -- start construction early next year.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Perfect. And then my question for Miss...Ms. White is, so is your...is the building built to hurricane standards?

MS. WHITE: Oh, no. No.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Would it need to be, you think?

MS. WHITE: Oh, the new building?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. WHITE: Are you talking about our current building? Oh, I...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Both. Both.

MS. WHITE: Both. Our current building is certainly not built to hurricane standards. And the new building, yes, we have actually...we put out to FEMA to see originally if they would actually pay for it. But because of the Federal mandate for the zoning, they

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can't. But if we were to make it available as a shelter because there is no shelter, there's certain hurricanes that it would work as a shelter. And that also has to be on poles. But we plan on making the shutters...shutters for the house, everything, so that it could withstand hurricane. That's why --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MS. WHITE: -- the cost of materials will be --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MS. WHITE: -- higher. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. Well, thank you so very much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Let's see, did I call on you yet, Ms. Sugimura, for your opportunity?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you did. I have a question for Public Works if I could, regarding...still on parking.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. I believe Deputy --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that all right?

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- Director Molina is tuned into the meeting.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Jordan Molina on the line.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So yeah, if...Mr. Molina, if you're hearing this, Ms. Sugimura is...has a question.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So in all of this, Mr. Molina, how will Public Works deal with traffic, pedestrian issues, and parking needs?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Welcome, Deputy Director Molina. We're on the Paia Youth Center area, Baldwin Beach Park area, Hāna Highway/Baldwin Avenue area. The public parking area, linear parking on the roadside that abuts our property. So any comments you already shared with the Parks Department, or you can share with us this afternoon?

MR. MOLINA: Sure. Good afternoon, Chair Hokama, Members of the Healthy Families Committee. Jordan Molina with the Department of Public Works. So regarding parking, Hāna Highway, of course, is a State facility which we would not have oversight on those parking requirements. And as far as development of Baldwin Beach Park, they will be on the hook to mitigate their parking impacts per zoning code. So Public Works really has no play in the matter in this instance.

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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I have...

CHAIR HOKAMA: So...you have another question, Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I have one more. So by looking at the maps which Keani shared, is...if we don't anything--this is one of the concerns I have--if we don't do anything, and the Paia Youth & Cultural Center stays where they are, is it in danger of being in the, you know...I...I guess in the inundation zone at some time?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Director?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. I...I mean, I guess it's already in the tsunami zone, so.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tsunami zone.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, it's right there on the beach, so kind of...part of our ongoing discussions about managed retreat and development in the sea level rise area, how to go about addressing this...this facility.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So are you then saying that it would have to move eventually? Hundred years, right, from now, or is that the time frame?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah. I guess that's my personal challenge with the managed retreat solution is that there is a cost and a timing formula that needs to be worked out to figure out what is the best course of action.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thanks for that question and response. So since we do have Public Works, you know, Members, if you have a question in this particular area for either Mr. Molina or Ms. White, now is a good time. So for me, regarding Public Works then, have you folks...because, you know, I don't know what position you folks took regarding the potential lease proposal that...Director Molina. But if it goes...moves forward as we've been hearing in the oral presentation, and for me, I know it's hard because I cannot conceptualize what the structures may be or impact. So have you folks already had some preliminary discussions on what type of potential road or traffic mitigation that the youth center or the youth council would be...need to be aware of in considering to...because, you know, I mean, they've...they've...they've been willing to generate fundraising. But you know, part of it is they need to at least know the impact of this potential cost, yeah. So I just was wondering if you folks gave them some comments regarding conditions...potential conditions of the lease as it regards to improvements?

MR. MOLINA: For us, no, we have not provided anything at this point, and it would be contingent on, I would think, the whole plan for the Baldwin Beach Park master plan.

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Because I think from the conceptual image that was provided, there may be shared ingress/egress points off the highway. I'm sure shared cost of the...whatever mitigations comes out of the traffic reports. So from our standpoint, we wouldn't be able to comment at this point until those more detailed reports are provided.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay. Could you tell us at this time...that...that would help us, I'm sure, or the future decisionmakers, as you understand it now, the State of Hawai'i is in no way thinking of relocating or making alignment adjustments to Hāna Highway? Because if that road is going to stay where it is, then we already know we have a natural...a manmade boundary, yeah, regarding shoreline from a State asphalt road situation. So have you folks been made aware that that is going to be the line or currently or they might move that road?

MR. MOLINA: I don't believe they would ever move the road. It would be similar to the Lahaina Bypass situation, where they may pursue the mauka...a new road mauka. But I would highly doubt they would actually physically move.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, thank...I appreciate that comment. I really do. Ms. White, my question for you is when do you think you may be able to share with us something a little bit more visual so we can kind of understand some of your future facility requirements, and what you were...your...your directors and your...your youth participants was kind of envisioning? You're looking at like maybe a 2,000 square foot, you know, under roof need...space needs for, you know, various activities or...

MS. WHITE: Yes. We are meeting with our architect this coming Thursday.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. WHITE: And with his preliminary conceptual...conceptual designs. I haven't seen them yet, so we're --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh.

MS. WHITE: -- meeting Thursday and depending upon the back and forth. But we've had a number of meetings with him up to this time to...before he brings his designs to the table. But that's...that's this coming Thursday.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. So let's say, you know, you do your in-house with your directors, maybe some...some of your youth participants. Do you have a timetable when you think you might want to take it to the greater Paia community?

MS. WHITE: Well, we are going to take it to the greater Paia community as soon as we get that, and when we get...when we get approval for the lease. As you know, it's...to take something to the greater Paia community without having a lease is like a lot of money being spent and trying to be practical in that regard, especially...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Yeah.

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MS. WHITE: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. No, we hear...we hear you loud...loud and clear, Ms. White, and we appreciate your situation. But for the Committee, we're in a kind of similar boat. We're being asked to approve a 50-year lease, but we don't know what's going to be on the property. We just know that you folks have plans, but we don't know what the plans are. And Council passes and approves things that is presented to us and what we believe is going to be on that property. So we're going to need to work on some verbiage because I'm sure right now we have seven Committee Members with seven different visual concepts of what this project could...could be. It may not be even close to what you're envisioning with your group, Ms. White.

MS. WHITE: I understand that, but...

CHAIR HOKAMA: The challenges that we're going to work with you on because I think we can overcome it with the appropriate language and terms to fit your needs, as well as the Committee's requirements. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, any questions either for Ms. White...one last round on this one please, Members. Or for Parks Department or Ms. White.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Or...or Public Works.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, I think my question will be for Director Peters.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So who is responsible for the decommissioning and removal of the current structures?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Director?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, so your question is the existing structures that are on the proposed lease area?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The current...the current area. Yeah, so like the --

MS. PETERS: The current...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- current...the existing skate park, I guess, the...just all those structures there.

MS. PETERS: So that would be the Paia Youth Council.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. So Ms. White, what have...has the youth council board or group discussed the decommissioning of the existing structures, and how that would be paid for and all of that?

MS. WHITE: We have discussed it, but it's...the existing building, we plan on continuing to use until we can't any longer for house...house the canoe hale and offices and for the hula halau. So until that...that could be another who knows how long. The skate park will...even with the sea level rising, could maybe last for another 30, 40 years. So...and the skate park, as far as deconstruction of that, it would...I don't know, I'm sure that we would be responsible and pay for it, but it would be the ocean taking it over, and cement, you know. So we do know that we're responsible for it, no different than we're responsible now to maintain it and keep it renovated and everything. So I mean, it will come to the time when it's...and I'm sure the time will come, that's why we need the new building. Will come the time where it'll be cheaper to take it down than keep...keep it going.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. White. I guess that's why I kind of, you know, share the sentiments that Member Paltin shared earlier, which is probably the more mauka the better, just because --

MS. WHITE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I...I know the cost of removing structures after they're built is tremendous. And you know, I don't support leaving structures there, letting the ocean take it.

MS. WHITE: Oh, we wouldn't do that. I would never do that. No. No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Well, you said that the ocean would --

MS. WHITE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- take the skate...

MS. WHITE: No. No. We wouldn't do that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So when...when you said the ocean would take the skate park, you didn't mean to leave the cement...

MS. WHITE: No. No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay.

MS. WHITE: I just meant...

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that...

MS. WHITE: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. Ms. Paltin, any last question for any of our resource people?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess my question for Ms. White would be, have you had a chance to read the written testimony that we have received?

MS. WHITE: No, I was not sent it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not sure if we're making a vote today, but I was wondering possibly before the next time we hear this if...if you could look it up. It's on the...the Granicus site, and there's some concerns, you know, about parking and things like that. And I know that someone mentioned in the chat that it's the County's job to have public parking, and the State along the highway. But because I'm not super, super familiar with that community, I was just hoping at some time you would be able to provide us with your thoughts on the written testimony that we receive.

MS. WHITE: Well, I can...I can comment right now on the parking issue. The parking issue has been going on for a long, long time, many years in Paia. And the youth center, when we were under A&B Properties, we actually had parking lot as part of our lease, and we paid for a lot of the renovations. We paid for the lights in the parking lot, we did all that. This current parking crisis and why it's become even more so in everybody's awareness is because of the State of Hawai'i putting up the no parking signs along Hāna Highway. That decision was made because of the homeless camps and people spending the night there, a lot of drug use, a lot of really unsavory activities happening, where even families and young mothers with children didn't feel safe walking on the bike path between the Paia Youth & Cultural Center and Baldwin Beach Park. So that was the answer that they came up with, so...that they had to leave and they ticketed everybody and made it like okay, we're not doing this. I put out to Kalani English after...when we realized when we have the high...high surf here and everywhere that there's no parking for people that want to surf. When the surf's not up, that's not an issue, there's enough parking on the beach area. The Department of Transportation decided that they could not...because we thought a good solution would be no parking from, let's say, 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. or something like that. But for some reason, the Department of Transportation decided no, they didn't want to do that, and they weren't going to allow parking anytime. So this current parking thing that's getting...I don't know if mixed up is the right word, but...it isn't, but in with the...our proposal for expansion of the lease, really, wouldn't...I believe wouldn't have happened without the current situation happening. Because if you look at the master plan for Baldwin Beach, there's plenty of parking within that plan for years and years and generations to come. So that...and also, there is another parking lot that is being proposed to be put in to expand the mauka parking lot, the

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County parking lot on the other side of the bypass. So there is a lot of parking stuff that it's this last wave that's, you know, hit us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So basically, just ask the police not to enforce it during the daylight hours or something?

MS. WHITE: Well, I don't have that kind of power, but...I don't know what to say.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Me either. Wishful thinking. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. White.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. You know, as Sergeant Schultz would say, I hear nothing. Mr. Molina, any last questions, sir, on this item?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, for...and Ms. White. With regards...oh, and thanks for bringing up the history of why that parking came to be because as you...you know and I know and everyone else in Paia, the concern was because of the homeless that were parking there pretty much permanently. And all...and there was some illicit activity going on, and certainly a lot of families felt unsafe. But while trying to solve one problem, then you have the unintended consequence of now, for people who want to go to the beach, there's no parking for them. And the State being very unyielding, that's quite unfortunate because, you know, we had also asked about that as a compromise. So anyway, I just sometimes can't understand the Department of Transportation at times. But I'll leave my opinions on the side regarding that. With regards to your...at this point, you have an estimated ballpark figure of what your new building would cost? And if you are at this time have an action plan for a capital campaign to raise funds to construct this new building?

MS. WHITE: Yes. We have the action plan. We have formed a separate committee on the board that's just for the capital campaign, and we're inviting other members of the community that have more experience in capital campaigns to be members of that committee. We cannot start a capital campaign until we get the lease. So we are ready to start the capital campaign, but we cannot until then. And what was the other part of the question?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, the...your...your ballpark figure, how much you're looking at --

MS. WHITE: Oh, ballpark figure.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- raising? Yeah.

MS. WHITE: That's a really hard question because it depends upon who you talk to and what's...because building materials keeping going up, shipping is going up, everything is going up. But we're looking at a good...including parking lot, you know, we do want to be off the grid as much as possible, very ecofriendly, that's more money in the short

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term, not the long run. We're looking at a good probably 5.5 million.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, great. Thank you for your responses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. I would say that's not a bad estimate that they came up with. Ms. Kama, any final questions you would like to ask our resource people please?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I have no more questions. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay. Yeah, I'm going to recommend deferring this, Members. I want the youth...Ms. White and her group to maybe have a little bit more dialogue with the...whether it's the Paia Community Association, but I would like to have a...the bigger community know what's...is going to be planned there, as well as how they can support Paia Youth Center or Youth Council in their efforts regarding the Paia...Baldwin Beach Park area. One of the things that I would be curious with Ms. White and her architects group is potentially what they would be recommending in design regarding COVID-19 requirements of safety. So is spacing now going to be an issue for Ms. White and her building because of spacing? Again, I don't know when she's going to get all these youth returning back to utilize facilities because unless we do our part and the numbers doesn't cooperate, I don't see us having a lot of use of our facilities in the future. So I'm going to recommend deferral of this item. I will be reaching out to Parks Director Peters and Ms. White this week for a meeting, Committee Members, to see if we can come up with something for me to propose that hopefully might be able to consider for my last Committee agenda, at least for a review. But you know, I like the project. I think we need some clarification and get us out of the verbiage and into something more conceptual for us to base our approval on. And so with no objections, Members, I'm going to, for today, recommend a deferral of item HFC-79.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KK)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Ms. White, we'll be contacting you this week, and we'll be working with you to come up with a way to bring this back to Council, as well as refer...and then I'm going to refer the item over to next Council, Members. But I want to work on this subject, just in case there's something we can do to assist the...the center before the end of the term. Okay. That's the intent. Okay. So with that, this item is deferred. And thank you, Ms. White, we appreciate your patience and your participation this afternoon.

MS. WHITE: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, Members, we're going to take...it's 3:55, we're going to take a

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five-minute recess and then hit the last two items. I think we can do it quite...within a timely manner. So we are in recess until 4:00 p.m. Recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 3:55 p.m.

RECONVENE: 4:02 p.m.

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back, everyone. We are reconvening the Council's Committee on Healthy Families and Communities.

ITEM HFC-24: FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT ON MAUI (CC 20-140)

CHAIR HOKAMA: We're going to take up now our second of three items under HFC-24 titled Feral Animal Management on Maui, and this is through a Communication 20-140 from Mr. Sinenci, relating to axis deer management plan. Members, the major purpose, as I stated at the beginning of the meeting, was to provide greater clarification to the Administration on how to utilize the funds the Council has approved through its Budget Ordinance. And so part of the discussion for today is to consider what I would be recommending is that this Committee, you allow the Chair to put forth a proposal which is basically a clarification of the Committee report that we approved with the Budget Ordinance, and we just add additional clarification. There will be no changes to the Budget Ordinance. It will remain as is. And the language in the amended Committee report, which is...again, for the purpose of clarification, is only going to be related to the axis deer appropriation. And the clarification is that use of the funds regarding the master plan will in no way inhibit or deter the use of the regional funds for current mitigation and damage control purposes. There was no way that we wanted the monies not to be spent because each region is...as you've heard some of the testifiers, it's already happening. It's happening on Lānaʻi now. It's happening on Molokaʻi now. It's happening in various parts of Maui now. And so the intent is to allow and provide the Administration confidence that we want that monies, with appropriate proposals, to be utilized in the current fiscal year and not have it just lapse at the...on June 30th. So that's my intent to again, allow the Administration to know that that is our...was our intent as we discussed it in budget deliberations under Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. And that was the purpose of me bringing it forward this afternoon before you, the Members of the Committee. So I'll ask you, Members, now, what your thoughts are and if you could support that consideration. Ms. Sugimura, I'll start with you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for bringing this forward because I will tell you that in my community, I've been getting calls from the Kula Ag Park and some of the farmers and the breadbasket, basically saying that it's actually not only axis deer, but it's swine. So the pig and these ungulates basically is a problem, and it is damaging...well, obviously damaging crops, but it's...it's also a threat to our food security. With the...with the different farmers that are, you know, complaining to me, not only do they hope that we put up a fence around the Kula Ag Park, but they're talking about just the...the damage that they're doing to their crops, and it's their

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business. So I...I hope so. And I...I...I'm glad you're bringing this up, Chair. Thank you, Keani, because this is going to involve budget also. So what is the process for this? I've never seen a Committee report be...be amended like this, so...or...or...or changed.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Again, it's a procedural proposal I'm presenting. Again, it is rarely if ever utilized because again, yeah...and again, I take the responsibility. As the subject matter Chair, I should have, you know, really taken a deeper review of the Committee report proposed before we adopted it to avoid this. But that is the nice thing about the Committee report, it's not the actual legislation, but it's...again, will prevent...provide appropriate detailed clarification on our intent and use of the funding as we approved it through the ordinance. And I think that will allow Budget Office and Finance Department to have the confidence to be able to help us utilize the funds this current fiscal year for each impacted area. So yeah, it's not utilized, but I cannot find any place where this prohibits us from providing additional guidance to the Administration through an addendum which again, is just a clarification. Yeah. It has no...it's not like the law, the ordinance itself. So I felt that this was an appropriate way to communicate it to the Administration.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Appreciate it. Plus, I have a lot of...well, I...I have axis deer in my yard too, so it must be pretty desperate to come and try to eat...eat any of my vegetation because tastes nothing like the Kula Ag Park or whatever. So they're all over. Thank you. Appreciate it.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Any one has a red nose?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'll...I'll take a picture of it, send it to you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: I mean, Keani caught that so fast or something, you know, did everybody miss it? Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, happy to hear your thoughts.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, some of our deer fly here too. Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo for bringing this up. You know, like you said, we...we don't want to hold up the funding that was appropriated. So to clarify, the...I was looking for the proviso. I don't see a proviso in the Exhibit 1. So it has like the axis deer mitigation under DHHC Animal Management Program. And then the adopted budget talks about the transfer of appropriation from axis deer mitigation to DHHC, 1.5 million. So yeah, my recollection of our discussion was to provide each island, each region funding so that each area would be able to figure out what is most appropriate for their area in deer...axis deer management, and I fully support that. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Let's see, we'll go with Mr. Molina. You...you...your area, you've got feral pigs, potentially some feral goats, you got axis deer. So any thoughts, Mr. Molina, regarding the --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: -- proposal?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No. And I'll follow your recommendation. I mean, it's...like you said, we got these, you know, ungulates all over the darn place, and it's critical and...that we address it as soon as possible. So I can go with your recommendation. So at this point, no monies have been expended at this point, yeah?

CHAIR HOKAMA: As...as I understand it, that...that...this...part of this clarification is going to help us be able to...yeah, nothing's been spent yet, Mr. Molina, you're right. This will hopefully --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- help us put the money into a program for each island.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, great. All right. No, no further questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. Ms. Paltin, any thoughts?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. You know, I...I really see this as a good opportunity, especially during these pandemic times. You know, a lot of the...the food boxes are...are not...there's not meat for the meat eaters. And I really hope that we can, you know, make use of like the mobile slaughterhouses and whatnot to try and get some of the venison out to the people in need. You know, we hear about the needs of the Food Bank and whatnot and in that way, I would hope it could be a win-win situation. With so many people out of work, so many people's unemployment monies running out, and from what I'm understanding, the PEUC takes a while to get on that, additional 13 weeks. So there's a lot of folks out there in dire straits right now, and so, you know, we can take this problem and hopefully turn it into a business model or a solution where we can feed our people. And whether they fly in on their own, we won't have to fly in the...the food --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. No, I --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that way.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- I...I hear you. No, on Lānaʻi, it is currently be...and Pūlama Lānaʻi has been very gracious. It's...for those that request and under voluntary, understanding Health Department regulations and everything else, yeah, it's been a supplemental food source, protein source for the island. And yeah, it's one of the best lean meat proteins you can get. So for Molokaʻians, Lānaʻians, those here on Maui that can have fresh venison, yeah, it's a very healthy thing. And yes, one of the things that...part of what...the intent was that it wasn't needed to have a master plan completed before utilization of the regional fund. That was never the intent, to hold back regional funding until the so-called master plan was completed. The master plan can be a continuing thing and again, it should be general enough to encompass all islands of

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the County, but not prohibit each island or each region to utilize their expertise and their understanding of their kuleana to do what is right within that ahupua`a. So I'm depending on Moloka'ians to do what is pono for Moloka'i. I would depend on Lāna'ians to do what is pono for Lāna'i since we know our kuleana the best. So that's the intent. Mr. Hopper, you had any comments?

MR. HOPPER: Yes. I'm...I'm just trying to find where...the agenda says that you may discuss possible approaches to the management of axis deer --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah.

MR. HOPPER: -- and then it's...and...and as well as related matters. No legislative action will be taken.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. We...we're not taking any action because there's nothing to take an action on, Mr. Hopper. We're just discussing that...that one of the ways to work on this animal management program is to provide clarification to the Budget Committee report that will give the administrative departments better clarification on Council's intent of the expenditure of those appropriations. So --

MR. HOPPER: So...

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- we are going...yeah, we're not...there's not...no legislation today or . . .*(inaudible)*. . . What I'm going to propose and prepare that I plan to at least share to the Committee on our last meeting of the 17th is what will be presented to Council on the 18th. Because Council will make the determination whether or not to amend the Committee...the previous Committee report by adding this amendment to it, so.

MR. HOPPER: Okay. So...so the next meeting, you would be...you would have the...the...the Committee report --

CHAIR HOKAMA: A draft...

MR. HOPPER: -- changes discussed in a draft?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right.

MR. HOPPER: Okay. I just I was confused. I thought you were talking about moving that forward today. That's...that's fine --

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, no, no.

MR. HOPPER: -- as long as that's clear in the meeting. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Thank you for your caution, Mr. Hopper. It's appreciated. Okay. So that's...that's my intent, Members, to be able to show you something at the next meeting. And then of course, on the final Council meeting of the 18th, Council will

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make the final decision on whether or not we would amend the Committee report language on clarification. Are we all clear? Yes, Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair, for doing this, really. There's a lot of need out there. One of the things I had submitted to the Committee was a ungulate management plan. I know it's not agendized, but...and it's for Maui that was put together by Mae Nakahata when she was working with me. And I don't know if you want to look at it, but it's...it's...it's pretty detailed. But hope to be inclusive of, you know, all the different groups that...that we heard from today. So as Maui puts together their thoughts.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Depend when you submit that, Ms. Sugimura. I'm happy to receive it under this Committee's jurisdiction. And it will be part of the re-referral for next Council to consider.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's in your Committee. So I'll --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I'll...okay. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So yeah, we'll --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- consider that. Happy to consider that. Okay. If there is nothing else, Members, on this one, I plan to...what we're doing this...on this one, Les?

MS. MILNER: Defer and . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. We are deferring this item on...of today's agenda, HFC-24, with no objection, Members.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KK)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much. Item is deferred, and your Chair will follow through on what he shared with the Committee to move forward.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR REFERRAL TO THE COUNCIL CHAIR FOR THE 2021-2023 COUNCIL TERM (RULE 7B)

CHAIR HOKAMA: Final thing before us today, Members. Again, I apologize, I...I...as you notice, I'm recommending re-referral of a lot of...more items than I had wanted to. But I believe because of the COVID situation and whatnot, I think you can appreciate

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some of the items I'm requesting you to consider to continue in the next term. So unless you want me to go down each one individually, I'm going to go through each of you and ask you if you have any concerns or recommendations on what's before...listed on the agenda. Ms. Sugimura, any comments, questions, or considerations?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: No comment.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh, okay. Ms. Kama, anything you'd like us to consider?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. I'm going to now go to Ms. Paltin. Ms. Paltin, anything?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I really appreciate the banyan tree moving on to the next term and animals at large because, you know, it just sounds fun. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, thank you. Appreciate it. Mr. Molina, sir, any...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Chair. No, no objections to what you want to refer to the next Council. But I am going to make a formal request, submitting a PAF to Office of Council Services as...as what is...what was explained to us this morning, if any Member wants a Committee item referred that's not on today's list. So the item that I'm going to request referral to the next Council term was HFC-004, which is a proposed lease agreement from A&B to the County of Maui related to Maliko Bay. So I will make a formal request in writing to OCS.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you for making me aware of that, Mr. Molina...yeah, no problem at all.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No problem at all. Ms. Rawlins --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. No, looks good to me.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, great.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: I'll also allow Ms. King, if she has...we'll notify her office if she has any

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requests or considerations. So with that, Members, I think we're okay then. Because again, let me check my notes...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair, I...

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, ma'am? Yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I didn't know if you wanted us to disclose what we were going to request, as Member Molina did. Did you need that or...

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, I leave that to you. Again, you know, I'm sure it's reasonable. But yeah, if you want to disclose it now, yeah, happy to hear it, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was kind of interested in HFC-28, 40, 63, 67, 68, and 69.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay. Yeah, thank you for making us aware. Yeah, we'd be happy to take all of those considerations for referral. Not a problem.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KK)

**ACTION: REFERRAL of communications to the Council
Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2021.**

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. If anyone else has any other considerations, the Chair is happy to include it in the consideration for Council's final decision. Not a problem. Just make...make it aware to me, and we will be happy to include it in the consideration, Members. Okay. With that, we've completed the business of today's meeting. We have one final Committee meeting on December 17th. And of course, final Council is on the 18th. So I want to thank you very much for your time today, Members, and appreciate all your comments and hard work on the items. So any last announcements or questions? Okay. If not, thank you very much for being here, Members. Aloha to our people of Maui County. A hui ho and God bless everyone. Buh-bye. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bye.

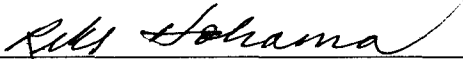
CHAIR HOKAMA: This meeting is adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 4:21 p.m.

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Council of the County of Maui

November 30, 2020

APPROVED:



RIKI HOKAMA, Chair
Healthy Families and Communities
Committee

hfc:min:201130:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 53 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 23rd day of December 2020, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

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

Daniel Schoenbeck